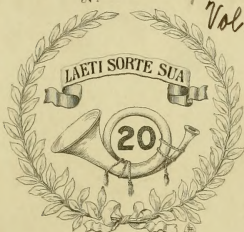


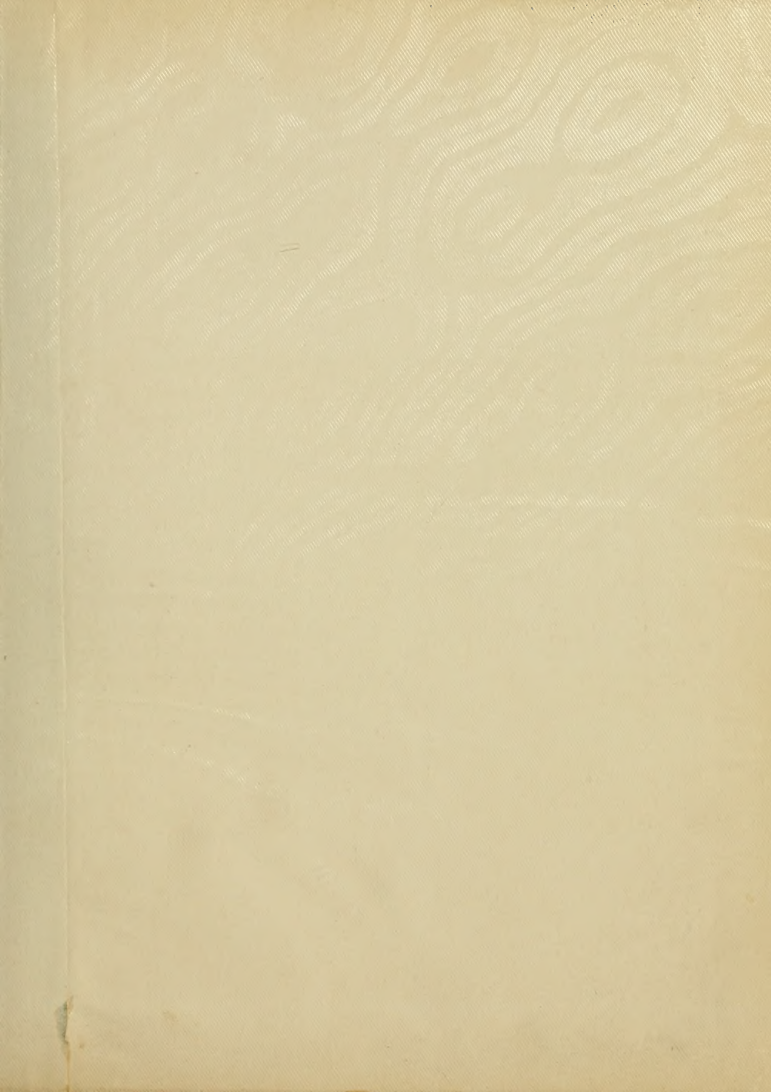
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No

Vol. 2



FROM THE MEMORIAL FUND  
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MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY  
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John C. Ropes

13 December. 1888.

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Vol 2

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2  
Dumfriescott August 6<sup>th</sup> 1859.

My dear John.

I received on July 22<sup>nd</sup> your letter dated Oxford July 6<sup>th</sup> and deferred answering it until I returned from Worcester where I went to see the College Union Regatta. I will first answer your questions. Clasp Day passed off very well, altho' it was rainy. We none of us attended the exercises in the Church, but heard that they were remarkably good. Balch was Orator, and Huntington, Poet. Lizzie Lee, W. A., Frank and myself were all that went. We were invited to Trooper's, Hayden's and Chauncey's rooms, where we met quantities of friends. We none of us remained to the President's levee, because it was rainy.

The Beacon Cup Regatta came off on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June and was won by the Harvard in 10.11 1/2, the best time she has ever made. Her principal opponent was a four-oared N. Y. boat. There was a Regatta at Charleston on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. The Soph. entered a boat and were beaten. The Harvard rowed down to look on and was run into, and considerably injured by a sail-boat. A new Harvard has been built, carrying 6 oars and a coxswain, like the old, but narrower. She, however, is not quite buoyant enough for her crew. There was a Regatta on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July in which Bob Clark won again, but in which no College boats entered. I have taken Jeffries' room,





because it is much lighter and warmer than my old one and does not smell as that did. It is besides cheaper, and can be hired for one term only. Gardner's room has been taken by Mr. Higginson (Freshman).

We had no further troubles with the Sophs. We moved to Swampscott the last day of June and I have been here ever since, excepting my recent visit to Worcester. On Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup> I received a letter from Jeffries saying that our class had determined to send a boat to the College Regatta, and requested me to come up and begin to train therefore. I went up on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and that night we rowed round the course on Ting. Our boat was a pretty good six-oared Lap-Strake, our crew consisted of Lee Grafton, McMillin, Boyden, Sibly and myself. I staid in Cambridge and we trained during the whole of this week. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> trial, we made 22 minutes and were getting on finely, until Saturday, when Lee found he could no longer stand the training, so he had just recovered from quite a serious illness. As his place could not be supplied, we concluded to give the whole thing up, and I returned to Swampscott July 16<sup>th</sup>. Ten of our class have been suspended at the end of this term for neglect of studies &c. among them are Winthrop Pickling and Brown for a year, and Boyden and Coleman for 6 months. Jarvis &c. is also sent off for 6 months and Mudge for the whole of the Senior year. I staid in Swampscott until Monday July 23<sup>rd</sup> when I went to Worcester with 4 of my class to see the College Union Regatta. We met there great numbers of



Collegians of all classes, Dwight and Norton of your class were there among others. On Monday a game of Chess was played between Cole Senior for Harvard and a Yale man, which resulted in a victory for Cole who, however, was afterwards beaten by a man from Brown University. On Monday evening a match game of Billiards was played between Munwell and Wilson for Harvard and 2 Yale men. Victory for Harvard. The race came off on Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 1/2 P.M. The old Harvard was rowed, crew: Crommshield (stroke) Forbes, Abbott, Russell, Wales and Ellison. Harvard also sent the Aron, with a crew picked from Juniors and Sophs. She, you know, is a Sapoteack. There was also a Sapoteack boat from Brown, making four in all. The Yale is the best boat I ever saw on the model of the Harvard, and with a coxswain. The boats got off finely the Harvard leading and the Aron and Yale neck and neck. The Aron did well, but was soon passed by the Yale, and came in 3<sup>rd</sup>; the Harvard beat the Yale by a minute and 2 seconds, a result expected by all. The Brown boat came paddling along about 5 minutes after. There was to be a race the next day for prizes offered by the City of Worcester, to which I did not stay, thinking it would be of no interest. I returned to Boston by the night Express train, and to Swampscott the next day. In the afternoon I walked to Thompson. and on taking up the evening paper, was astounded by the heading in large print: "Harvard beaten by Yale". The next day



or so. I saw some who were present, and found them as well as from the News-paper accounts. I learned the reason of the defeat. It seems that the wind was blowing very strongly across the course and as the Harvard is steered by the Coxswain, it became necessary for the Starboard side hardly to row at all, while the Larboard men were obliged to pull tremendously. And the Gale was kept upon the course by the steering of the Coxswain, and all her crew were thus enabled to pull. She turned the stake just before the Harvard and was judiciously steered close under the windward bank, while the Harvard was blown far off her course toward the Seaward bank. Evia the Starboard were obliged to back water a head round the boat but just at the last with a desperate effort they gained upon the Gale and passed the line 2 seconds behind her. We none of us feel this to be anything of a disgrace, but still it will stimulate the College to provide a boat for next year as good as can be built. I have been in Swampscott ever since the race, and am to start to-morrow for a ten days walking tour in the White Mountains in company with Herbert Mason only. We have procured knapsacks and expect to have a very pleasant time. We probably shall begin to walk from Centre Harbor. Please say to Father that the new horse is every thing that could be desired, has not been ill at all and will, I think, very soon be perfectly safe for Mary Ann to ride. We have not been able to sell the Milla, but have let her to Dr. Lawrence for the rest of the summer.



I expect that my White Mountain tour will entirely restore my eyes which are now almost well. I think I have no reason to doubt my ability to resume my college duties at the beginning of the term. Please thank Father for his nice letter, and say I shall write him again soon.

My love to all.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Lopes.





Cambridge Octbr 1<sup>st</sup> 1859

Dear John.

I began to write several weeks ago but my letter was interrupted by much Frank's death and I did not send it. Mother and the rest have given you full accounts of his last illness and death and I can add nothing. I can only say that I could not have thought that the death of anyone out of our own immediate family could have affected us all so much. It will always be connected with your visit to Europe in our minds. As my letter must be limited I will devote it to College matters and that which no one else has probably written about. When I am back again in College, my eyes much better and rapidly improving. I have engaged Douie of my class, a poor and very excellent fellow, to care the lessons to me and thus I save  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the eye work. I of course cannot expect to "stun" anywhere but get along passably. I am enjoying myself exceedingly, more more; our studies are not hard and the class is very pleasant. I like my new room exceedingly and it looks very well with your book case, fixtures &c. And now about events. 1<sup>st</sup> the foot ball. Our fellows about 70 in number met at my room and we marched to the Delta in line. I cannot stop to tell you all I wish. The Freshman Class entered 140! Many Boston fellows; they got over 100 to pledge themselves to come to the foot ball, and therefore turned out in great numbers and fought desperately. The



Did another thing which was I think entirely unfair. They look  
into their ranks during the 3 first games a number of scientific  
students, and others entirely unconnected with the College. Also several  
Juniors, among them Lawrence & Curtis fought against us and kicked  
in the Freshman games. We made the first charge with superior  
more confidence, the Freshmen fought well, there was a separate  
game the Freshmen were forced back, we were all in one body, when  
the ball by some accident was thrown out of the fight unknown to  
most of us and kicked over our bound by some Freshmen assisted by  
Outsiders. You cannot imagine the desperate fury of our men when  
we learned that we had been defeated. The Freshmen with loud cheers,  
confident and elated by their incredible success came on to the second  
game and fought with astonishing bravery. But our men were desperate  
and after quite a long game in which the Freshmen and their allies  
were terribly handled, we drove home the ball. The 3<sup>d</sup> game was one  
rush for us, few of the Freshmen being capable of offering much resistance.  
Then the Juniors turned out in force and we were joined by about twelve  
Seniors including Cromwells and others, and in the 3 games we  
were victors in short but fierce fights. Our defeat in the 1<sup>st</sup> game  
is generally acknowledged to have been a mere accident. So much  
for the foot ball. I have been elected President of our Boat Club  
in room of Jeffries who resigned. I am in the Institute and have  
enjoyed it very much. Also I have been taken with Grafton of



class into the crew of the "Harvard". I have been out several times and shall endeavor to keep in good condition and strength during the winter. Ellison of the old crew has graduated and Dupelle resigns. You know that we have got to retrieve our reputation with Yale next year. I had intended to write to you before about getting me some clothing in England. If therefore it will not put you to much trouble at the last, will you order for me an overcoat, black cloth not very thick, velvet collar, large sleeves, and a vest and pair of pantaloons of the same cloth, of some sober pattern and pretty thick. I enclose my measures for them as given to me by a known. If you are driven for time perhaps you can buy the cloth and have the garments made here. I suppose you heard that at Swampscott I won a dog race with Washburn of my class and won. Prize \$15. = I was got up by the Gentlemen there and our principal competitors were a couple of brawny young Fishermen. Please say to Father that the new horses are everything that could be desired. The gray saddle horse which I bought trotted with me a mile in 3 minutes 30 seconds at Swampscott. Both have been perfectly well. Perhaps you have not heard of Uncle Frank's will. Robert Codman is sole executor. The Hanover Street property goes evenly between Mother and the children of Aunt Maud, half to each. After Mother's death to us. Robert is executor only till Mother's death. He left the 2 bronzes which were on the mantle-piece in his dining room.



to Mother the interest of \$1000. for life to Jim.....and all the rest  
to James Codman. Mother was very deeply affected by his death  
and I wish Father had been at home to comfort her. I can  
think of nothing else to tell you. This is no doubt my last letter  
to you as we expect to see you by November 1<sup>st</sup>. So good bye.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Lopez.





Walter House Worcester Sunday  
evening July 21<sup>st</sup> 1880.

Dear John.

I have engaged for you a parlor for Tuesday at Mrs. Jonathan Woods, School Street close to Main St. and shall arrange for having refreshments provided. I have given the direction in full that you may be able to drive from the Depot to the house in case you miss me. It is a respectable boarding house. The race takes place at 3.30 P.M. and a train leaves for Boston at 4.30 P.M. which train will probably be waiting at the lake to leave as soon as the race is over. But the crowd will be tremendous and I think it would be difficult for Ladies certainly, to walk across the fields to the cars, so I should advise you to return to Worcester and to go to Boston in the 10.30 P.M. Express train. You can of course decide this when you get here. In going to the lake, I think it will be very unpleasant for the Ladies to ride in the crowded train and then to walk a considerable distance over mudways which may be muddy, and therefore I shall endeavor to provide some kind of carriage for you. I can get seats on a raised platform, where you have the very best view, without trouble. If Frank is in a hurry he could take the 4.30 train of course. I shall no doubt meet you at the Depot and shall have everything provided. To-day I attended the Orthodox Church as the Episcopal was closed for repairs. Sat-



was a fine day and we did not get through with preparing the  
boats till night.

Hoping to see you on Tuesday, I remain

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Roper.



Tuesday, 3 P. M.  
October 22<sup>d</sup> 1861.

Dear John.

I have seen Mr. Willard, just before dinner, and have determined to join his Drill Club, and shall begin to come in to-morrow at 3<sup>15</sup>. I shall pay the expense myself, unless Father seems willing to do it for me. I have not said anything to him about it to-day, as I have not had a good chance. Mr. Willard is to expatiate to him on the advantages of the Club, when he sees him, and I hope you will say to Father what you can in favor of the plan, etc. the subject comes up. If you could repay me the \$10. you borrowed, before long, it would do to say Mr. Willard with. There is no particular hurry about it. We have an A. D. meeting a week from to-day, and a "stunning" play at the H. S. C. on Friday evening.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp Benton, 20<sup>th</sup> Regt.  
at Leesville, W. Va. Jan<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

Here I am sitting in Sicut. Patten's tent, wind blowing so as to shake the canvass very much, but warm, Sicut. Patten opposite, 2 candles between us, a little stove at one end, and the time 6.30 P.M. I shall try to write to the family a full account of my doings, and hope my letters will be rec<sup>d</sup> against my return for me to write out my Journal. I shall try not to repeat the same thing in 2 letters, so please tell all the news (which is not private) to the others of the family.

On the whole I am very pleasantly disappointed in the general comfort of a camp. Whittier has had a splendid log hut built, and most of the tents are floored and have fires. We sleep in the tents with our Company Officers. So far I have dined at other tents round. I am to have a stool and table made soon by the Carpenter. These, with a few tin plates and a basin &c. constitute the furniture of the tent. All log huts, stoves and such luxuries must be left behind on a march.

I instantly found the need of a servant, and at first thought I would have you send me one down, but I have picked up a boy here (\$8. per month and board) who I think will do. His name is Erny and I expect to make a good servant of him. All





smart and a regular Banker. When I get fairly settled I shall be as comfortable as a Prince. I have now the whole of the Lieutenant's tent to myself, and shall have Perry sleep in the tent too, for I can draw for him from the Quartermaster a straw Mattress and a Blanket.

You must have a boy to cook, wait, make a fire, get wood, buy things and be generally useful. & Tiggers are scarce here. When we march we must leave a great deal behind, for many of the Officers have made very comfortable quarters here and have got chairs, tables &c. I have received my commission and shall send it with my order home as soon as convenient, to be kept safely for me. Please tell Mother Herbert was very much obliged for her present.

All the fellows here are free and easy and very hospitable. You can eat or sleep anywhere and at any time. Lieut. Patton I like very much indeed. Carey is a very fine fellow. Herbert is doing exceedingly well, is everywhere liked, and is making a most excellent Officer. Capt. Shepard has not a very high reputation but he is a very kind man and I think I shall have plenty to do under him. Excuse haste &c., for the wind is blowing terribly.

Happy new-year to all. I shall write to Mary Ann very

soon.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Lopes.



Camp Benton 23<sup>rd</sup> Ind. Regiment  
near Bolesville Md. January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

Many thanks for your kind letter, which I have just received. Happy new year to you all. I hope soon to write a long letter to you. I saw little of Washington, but a good deal in the ride up. Virginia roads I know nothing of. Maryland ones are bad enough but as far as I can judge from here there is nothing at all in the state of the roads or weather which would seriously or even slightly delay the march of this Regiment or of an Army. I feel very sure of this. Our Regiment is small now, many Officers away and men detailed for various duties, such as guards outposts guards wood chopping &c. We only turn out about 200 or 300 in battalion drill. To-day I was on duty. I commanded the Company at morning Company drill and at dress parade.

The Michigan <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> is an excellent Regiment, lies between us and the River, and a few York Regiment is also in sight. The Mass. 10<sup>th</sup> 2 miles off at Bolesville, and the Mass. 1<sup>st</sup> 3 miles in the Washington road. In all about 3500 or 4000 men. The country is wide and open and 100,000 men could easily manoeuvre (how do you spell it?) in sight or as parade ground. I should think there could not be a better candidate for fighting in with large armies, say of 20,000 or



30,000 men. However, no one knows anything, or if they do they keep it to themselves, and we live a jolly, free and easy life, and that is as much as we can choose.

Tell Mr. Willard and Prof. Goodwin that I was very sorry not to see them before I left, and that I send my kindest regards. The weather is not cold here. About  $25^{\circ}$  or perhaps  $28^{\circ}$  at night is the coldest yet, and it is much warmer in the daytime. I send and buy meat &c., my boy cooks very well and does everything for us, and I get along very well indeed and am contented and happy. Bartlett is a splendid Officer. So is the Colonel. He and Bartlett loaf into the tents, smoke &c. like College fellows.

I shall write to you fully if there is any sign of an advance. We passed 2 or 3 earthworks mounted with very heavy guns on the way up. It looked like business. Tell Mother her Strawberry is most excellent. I shall try the chocolate soon.

It is no use to send papers. They only come once in a very long time. Letters are very regular. I have just received yours of January 1<sup>st</sup> and am greatly obliged. Please direct to me Company K, for then the surgeons bring them to my tent.

The sewing socks are very useful and warm. My Buffalo is invaluable. Tell Mary Ann to write me a nice long letter about everything. Tell her she must take a great interest in my boy Corry. I have just received Mary Ann's letter of January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Your affectionate brother Harry Ropes.



Camp Benton, January 14<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

Your letter of January 10<sup>th</sup> lies before me. I am very glad you enjoyed the last C.D. so much. The mails are very uncertain and all complain of delays in the arrival of letters. I like O'Brien very much, but he is not a very great man, nor a very good Officer, but he is a pleasant and genial companion. It is not proper to speak much of other Officers, but to you privately I will say (what you need not repeat) that Schmidt, Sewell and Colmes were all poor Officers, though good, brave men. My little experience has shown me that business ability, fairness, of judgment, consistency of character, and a spirit of disregard of personal comfort, are necessary to a good Officer. Above all he must be prompt, and not make mistakes. It will not do to see your error right after and correct it. You must decide right the first time. I have had a very good share of experience of picket duty, and have written fully to Father about it. I am very glad Joseph is to appear at Washington in a public way. He will not I think attempt the dull journey here. It is tiresome, and he has seen me so lately it would not be worth while. A man here of the Regiment takes excellent card photographs, and if I dislike my card I shall show, and have some taken here. At present I am unshaven and very rough. One of the large ones without uniform I liked very





much, when I saw it before I left.

In regard to Bull's Bluff I am what I can learn I judge that what was needed was protection for the men, and especially for the guns. This could have been easily made with logs and mud, and by digging rifle pits. In such a woody place a log and mud breastwork could have been very quickly built and would have been sufficient defence. Had our troops been able to hold their own till the next day, the Rebels would have had to retreat, with Stone and Danks behind and on their flanks, and our men pursuing them. 500 more men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Regts. were so near that they could have been got across by midnight with at least a full battery of Cannon. Baker of course should have foreseen all difficulties and provided therefore. It might have been however that a Rebel force was in reserve sufficient to overwhelm any force we could have brought, but I see no proof of this. Logs and mud are an excellent protection and speedily raised. The second day I was on picket a heavy boat with 9 horses came up and broke the ice before it. It was followed by a small steam tug having in tow 3 large barges fully supplied with seats, oars, thole pins &c., and each capable of carrying 100 men, and of being rowed quite rapidly thus loaded. They were wide, full, yet sharp boats, and I saw them near Edwards' ferry when I came up yesterday. As the tug past by my post (about 12 o'clock in the day) it stopped a few moments for the ice, and a gentleman came out of the



little cabin and stood a few moments looking round, and then went back to the cabin. He wore an Officers overcoat, without the cape, had on a knit woollen cap, and was smoking a cigar. One of my men recognized him and told me it was Genl. Stone. I approached and saluted, thinking he wanted to ask some question. He bowed, but said nothing and soon returned to the Cabin. He is good-sized, good looking man, with full black (or nearly black) beard &c. He looks like a cool, steady man, but not like a long-headed Dr. Walker-kind of man at all, and I am sorry to add, not like a man in earnest about a great thing. He looked to me like what I imagine some good French Officer to be, who was brave, but not foreseeing, able, but not over trustworthy. He does not look like a traitor at all, but like a man who had no very particular sense of duty in anything beyond his mere military station and duties. However, this is only a guess at first sight. Be careful how you repeat this from me, for I am an Officer now.

Last night it began to snow, and this morning we had 2 or 3 inches, and it has been very cold all day. Now (3 P.M.) it is snowing again. This is regular New England weather, and in common tents without floors or fires, it would be very uncomfortable indeed and there would be much sickness. I think now that an advance at this season would not be attempted, unless it was certain that in a week we should reach a town or a place for a permanent



camp like this. Marching all day wet, and sleeping in snow is no joke. It is pretty rough now under canvas. The men and many Officers, have log huts. You speak of other Regiments. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan is the one I have seen most of. It is a good Regiment. Men, real stout Americans, full of strength and earnestness. Officers middle-aged men, and good, but not attentive to little particulars of etiquette &c. I am sure it will fight well. I have not received the newspaper you say you sent. I was greatly humiliated to see that Mason and McDell have gone off in an English gunboat. I do not much like the landing of troops at Vera Cruz. A riot might have occurred. It would have been better to wait till the British Government asked permission.

After a small dog has given up his bones to a big one, there is no use in offering the crumbs. It is not the time for extra compliments, and there was no call for such a privilege. I am very glad you enjoyed that final A. D. Look back with <sup>feelings of</sup> pleasant remembrance I am unable to express on my college life, my club table, my societies, and especially the  $\Delta\Delta\Phi$ . May 'it long prosper.' Who are the present Officers?

I can look back now on several periods of my life and events, which I shall not ever know again. I shall never forget my college friends, and often think of them now. I do not in the least regret that I came here, on the contrary, I am very glad.



I know it my duty to come, but, if ever I return, there will be great changes at home and I shall probably be a different man. I am more than satisfied with military life. There is always something you can do to employ your time and mind, and something too, you are better for having done. It is a good thing to learn not to set much by personal comfort and even happiness, and not make too many hopeful plans for the uncertain future. I shall send back by Capt. Peck = with or some man your flask which leaks, and my boots, which need mending. They were put too near the fire and had the sides nearly burnt off. I also send to you a bit of wood a part of the scow in which the troops crossed over to Ball's Bluff, and which afterwards sank with the wounded men. It was washed ashore near my picket. If you do not want it, keep it labelled against my return. Please have Rice (or some other good workman) repair the boots and send them back to me. Please send me the bottle of Charr Cordial I left, and a bottle <sup>of</sup> best brandy and 2 dish cloths. Do not send these by Express. I will send some private on furlough to you for them by and by.

I fear this is a very long letter.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Lopez.





Camp Beaton January 13<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My Dear John.

I received your letter of January 10<sup>th</sup> last evening, and I am very much obliged to you for getting and sending the slipper. I have sent to Corporal Goodrich my loan boots and the bit of wood from the Ballo Bluff scow about which I wrote to you. Please let the boots be mended as soon as possible. I will send some man to you, if I can who will bring them back to me. Please get and send to me a flask which does not leak. Better get an India Rubber or metal one, and have it filled with the very best brandy. I rarely take any, but when I do it is for medicine, and I want it good. I had the slightest touch of diarrhoea the other day, and I took about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of my flask, in small doses. I have not drunk a wineglass of anything since I came except this. Indeed I do not care for brandy and whiskey and these are all there is. Please send me a package, about 2 lbs. of the best of ground Coffee. We drink it here all the time, and as we rarely get milk it is now desirable to have it good. That from the Quartermaster is only fair. Please send a small box of saleratus milk also. All these things; milk, slipper & brandy flask &c. I wish you to keep an account of for me to pay when I receive my pay. I shall insist on this no if I do not pay, I shall not send for things, and I wish now to support myself.



not put yourself to any trouble to send things. When we always going home on furlough and I will send them to you. When you get any thing better keep it wrapped up and directed to me to be called for.

I have just found out that the Governor has dated my commission November 25<sup>th</sup> 1861. The others Putnam's, Herbert's, Murphy's and Liddle's are, I believe all dated the same date, on papers that the Colonel may give us rank according to our merit, not to mere date of commission.

Thus you see I am entitled to about 1 month's more pay, and had I been a few days earlier and had my name entered at a general muster which took place, I should have received about \$100.00. I do not know if it is fair for me to take this pay for time I did not serve, but shall explain the whole to the Paymaster, and let him judge.

The Regiment has just been paid off by Paymaster, Kaiser King, a very pleasant man. He told me at the end of the next 2 months I should receive 3 months' pay, about \$300.00. So I shall make my hundred last till then and after that time be rich enough. Do not let them refuse to allow me to pay for what I send for, otherwise I shall say unquiet many things & want. Things are very dear here, except necessities, which you draw for from the Quartermaster and have deducted from your pay. You have to buy food for yourself here, and keep house. The soldiers have luxuries such as cakes, apples, sealed up in tin, pickles, candy, and quantities of other things, and he lets your bill always run till you pay. I shall send back your first



soon, and perhaps some few other things I find useful. It is raining and we have had a very great deal of bad weather, rain, snow and sleet, wind.

I should be delighted to see Professor Godwin, and would be greatly pleased if he would accept of the shelter of my tent, and put up with camp fare for so long as he would like to stay. I hope you will come down here and pass a week at least. Bring warmer clothes and you will have a very pleasant time. It is worth while to visit the 9th & 8th Regiments and batteries near here, and you can be my guest and have no good a place to sleep as anyone. If you can get a passage up on a canal boat it would be very pleasant and you would see lots of pickets. You can have your baggage brought up from Cameron's Ferry in one of the many teams constantly going there. Better leave everything not absolutely needed, at the Hotel in Washington. I had not heard of Cameron's resignation. I occasionally see a Baltimore paper, but have got but one yet from home. Try directing them via Folesville, Md. Do come and pay me a visit. It will not be very expensive to you as you must be my guest here, and my boy will cook you anything, make a fire before you rise, heat water and do anything.

Nothing new in Camp.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Rapier.



Camp & Benton, January 21<sup>st</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I am writing a great many letters to-day because I am con-  
=fined to my tent and am just getting better from quite a little attack  
of fever. Please do not tell any of the family, as it would make  
Mother very anxious, and I have not mentioned it to anyone but you.  
It came on quite suddenly the day before yesterday, and I have had the  
Doctor and a man to sit up one night, but to-day I am up though  
confined to my tent and quite weak. I think it must have resulted  
from exposure on picket. We had very warm rains and damp, foggy  
nights, and poor food. However I am about well now, and as soon  
as it is fine, shall be out again. Do not tell them at home. Capt.  
Beckwith and Lieut. Whittier left to-day on leave of absence,  
and if you like, you might see them, and send me little thing to me.  
Capt. Beckwith is a jolly, old soldier. I spoke to an intelligent  
sergeant about Ball's Bluff the other day, and he says the Confederates  
to Leesburg were running all night after the battle, and bringing away  
number of Rebel troops, so, had our troops stayed and hastily interfe-  
=red themselves, they must soon have been overpowered as the enemy  
had the power to gather troops 100 times faster than we. I read  
with great interest the passage of the river Doves. I shall not receive  
pay for 2 months, and as the Quartermaster now requires Cash





For food, I may have to borrow 20 or 30 \$ before that time. After that I shall have plenty.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Roper.

Enclosed letter for Mary Ann.



Camp Barton, January 21<sup>st</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I shall send you by Capt. Shepard who even goes home on a sick leave a parcel containing one Leaky glass, the 2<sup>d</sup> volume of the Spectator and a parcel for Mary Ann which please be careful of. When I send home to you some money at next pay day you can get the other volume and keep the book. You can send to me by the Captain the books and the glass I wrote to you of. Have the latter well filled. I want now some more paper. Send some about the size of this only wider and ruled. Do not send other kinds or envelopes. Also please send some stout line about 100 feet, as strong as a stout cord line. Also a nipple wrench for my pistol, as I have lost mine. Better let Mr. Willard direct you in regard to the latter as he will remember the size. You know in this out of the way place one has to send for almost anything. The few things that are good which the Sutter has, or which are at the Stores at Colosville are abominably dear. Kullawell's brother just joined the Regiment as 2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant. He has been assigned to Company F. Capt. Cabot. As both Cabot & Sturgis knew him well in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, I suppose they asked for him, and he will be there permanently. So I may have to remain in Company K. It is not proper for me here to express an opinion in regard to my own position, but of course you know. I would very much like to feel really settled



in so good a company as I. If it is I may be put in A. Capt. Remlett,  
considered one of the very best places. Whittier 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Whittier  
spoke to me about it. The trouble is that Capt. Shepard likes me,  
for I do all the work, and he told me he had asked the Colonel for  
me, and the men like me too. This is of course private. If it is  
now, I manage the Company myself, the Captain being on the sick list.  
I do not chum or eat with the Captain, and I can get along perfectly  
with him in business matters. I do not know what 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant  
will be appointed here, and this is the great question with me. If there  
is a real good first, the Company will improve and be well drilled, and  
I shall have a pleasant place. Still I should like a real soldier  
for a Captain, and I cannot but hope I shall be put finally in A.  
I have now however got acquainted with these men, and I like them,  
and I hate to part with them. If I remain here, I shall have  
very much more commanding to do, and more experience. However,  
I must only wait and let things go on. I am rejoiced at the Kentucky  
victory, and hope for further success there. Since Genl. Stone's  
visit, we have had no unusual preparations at all, and although  
to-day it was possible to walk, to-night it is raining and snowing  
hard.

As soon as warm weather sets in I shall send home about  
20<sup>th</sup> of warm things, including my Buffalo. Then I shall be  
in marching order. I find Dr. Behore a very pleasant man.



Dr. Maynard I see little of. I fear I see too little of the fellows.  
I am alone a great deal. It was not a fault of mine at College,  
and I shall make a point soon of going round more in the evening.  
I have seen most of Stergis. He is a very frank open & jolly  
fellow, full of kindness. I like Mary very much. Cotton is  
not thought much of. He is a good fellow though. I have given  
your direction and Father's to Captain Shepard. Show him some  
attention if you can, for he is a kind man.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Ropes.

Enclosed letter for Mary Ann.





Camp Benton January 28<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John,

I received last night your long letter of January 23<sup>d</sup>, and it now lies before me and I shall answer it (as is my custom) taking up each thing as you wrote it. First my sickness. I am every you and especially Mother, were anxious. I have never had any fever that I remember before, and I want you to know that this attack was not a case of fever and ague at all. I should be sorry indeed to get that disease. It was a sudden fever attack. Hot head, cold feet, pain in the back, very great nervousness during the night and vomiting, were the symptoms. But in one day I was well, that is, not strong, but fever gone and able to be up. All this time it poured with rain and the tent was constantly damp, and the wet air blowing in. The Doctor said he did not know but that I was to be really ill, and that I recovered very quickly. And I have ill longer I should have been taken to the Hospital, a nice and comfortable log hut, where you have everything needed. I lay my illness to three things: 1<sup>st</sup> Wet and disagreeable as picket; 2<sup>d</sup> Hot and unwholesome food for a day or two there; 3<sup>d</sup> change of water and air. This last is a much greater thing than you imagine, and affects a perfectly well man. I think it a wise precaution to put a very little brandy in your water, and do so for a day or two when



I was sick, I am now perfectly well, and do not think I am in any particular danger of future illness. I live on picket. I shall be very careful. I assure you that in case of any illness or injury whatever I should be taken care of at the Hospital here in the very best manner. The Hospital here is about perfect and as good as home for a sick man. You speak of discouragement &c. I have never for an instant felt discouraged or looked restlessly toward home. When I lay abed sick I was of course very uncomfortable and in pain, but I have never once wanted to go home, and shall not until the Regiment returns, if my life is spared to return with it. Of course we have all sorts of discomfort, and perhaps I am not quite so cheerful as I used to be in Cambridge, and do not see enough of the fellows &c, but I am not in the slightest degree discouraged or disappointed with my profession and although I long to see the war over for the sake of the country and humanity, and would very well like to come back as one member, however humble, of a conquering army, and lay down the sword, yet personally I am willing to stay for any length of time. I find here an opportunity to do as much good as I shall find in any profession. My time is occupied very fully, my pay is sufficient, my trade honorable and one which calls out all the ability a man man possesses. I have enough of pleasant companions, and I can see nothing better to look forward to in life. Go to the danger, somebody must enter it,



and why not? Above all I feel now it is my duty. If I live  
till the war is over, I shall probably find some other path open.  
So do not think I am discouraged, or hankering for home, for  
comforts and for society. I do want to see you all though very  
much, and being away from you, and Mary Ellen and Mother, and  
all, is the greatest trial I have. But this is not discouraging,  
only a trial every young man must bear. I long very much for  
letters, especially yours and Mary Ellen's, and it is these letters that keep  
me constantly reminded of home, and seem to bring me back again.  
I am glad you have got me some boots, but I really think the old  
might have been repaired and a shoemaker in my company was  
to have done it, had he been able to get further. I do not care  
how it looks, provided it is strong. Thank you for the coffee  
and the brandy &c. which I shall probably soon get. Adams' Express  
often brings things here.

I really think you would enjoy a visit of a week here.  
It would only cost you about \$40. to go and come, stay a week  
with me, and spend 2 days in Washington and Philadelphia.  
I have now arranged to get milk daily, and my boy often gets eggs.  
Yesterday I made a pretty good omelet. I will make you really  
comfortable, and you will see at least 7 camps and have a jolly time  
here with the Officers. I want you to think seriously of it. I  
should be delighted to see Professor Goodwin, and Mallowell come



me to this invitation to dine, Michael with Curtis in Abbott  
have gone on picket. I see more of him than any one else of the  
Officers, but not one much of any. I am delighted you are getting  
practice. As to the date of my Commission, you see I am entitled to one  
month and 10 days pay, before January 1<sup>st</sup>. and had I been 10 hours  
earlier at the Camp I should have been in time for the Muster, and  
should have received about \$50.- when the others were paid, 2 weeks ago.  
As it is I shall get \$300.- next pay day (about March 10<sup>th</sup>). The men  
of the 20<sup>th</sup> average good size, and are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  Irish and German. They  
are on the whole good soldiers, and we are specially fortunate in our  
non-commissioned Officers. In my Company one of the Sergeants is an old  
regular and has been in all Scott's Mexican battles. 3 Corporals in my Com-  
pany also are old regulars. Lieut. Murphy who was in the regular  
Army, says the Regiment is much more like a regular one than  
any about. We are getting an easy yet prompt way of doing everything,  
and of drilling, which is very much better than the square and pious  
bearing of a military man. The men throughout have the most unbounded  
confidence in the Regiment and in our Officers, and in our ability to drill.  
The Colonel summoned us Commanders of Companies the other day, and  
told us an advance might at any time be ordered, and our Companies must be  
got into perfect trim. So I am very busy seeing to everything, and if  
Company K. is not perfectly supplied and ready for instant action when  
the time comes I intend that the fault shall be a good war story.





But the amount of labor necessary, together with the regular Company  
business for me the Only Officer now, is very great. I like Quarter-  
Master Tolson very much and his brother too. They have the young  
I think I asked after you. I should like the Map of Virginia  
but not that of Carolina. Please get the best copy, with a light  
cover (if any) and send it any time. Better wait till quite a number  
of things are ready. Send me a good supply of common red blotting  
paper. I have written for writing paper. I send by Lizzie  
another Falls Bluff relic. I like the A. D. Officers, and hope  
Lawie will be frugal of the money. Who is Curator? My  
regards to Boyden, Jeffries and any fellows you may see. I have  
not received any of your Advertisers, but the one in the Knapsack.  
Have you hiked off the tongue against the H. P. C.? Jeffries  
will tell you. It is indeed diabolical. To-day is rainy again  
and cold. I am in perfect health. Do not feel the least anxious.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Ropes.



Camp Benton 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I have no letters to answer from you, but as I have a good deal of time, being on guard and as I want you to send me several things, I thought I would write you a short letter. It is raining now and we had snow last night. Do not ever complain of Boston weather, but if ever it is cold and windy think of Maryland and mind. I should be perfectly delighted to get a week of cold weather when one could wear leather boots, and have ones feel dry and clean. I want you to send me a box of patent fire kindlings, I remember to have seen. It seems to be sawdust and pitch, dried in cakes and put up in paper boxes. It is very cheap, and I think it would be very convenient for me. Please find out the price of candles per pound. The Quartermaster charges me 25 cents a pound for quite common tallow ones. If they are enough cheaper to make it an object, please send me a box say 40 lb. I have written to Father and shall have such necessities charged to me. Please send me all of those bill files such as you use, with India Rubber straps.

I find my warm shoes a very great comfort. A tent is very airy, and in spite of an open fire the floor is a very cold place. Mother and Father have written about giving me things, and I have told them that



I do not by any means mean to separate myself from them so far as to refuse to accept gifts, only I wish to pay for common things I am for. Of course I shall be most grateful in every way for every thing. I have received the Advertiser regularly for 3 days now, but I usually get the news earlier by a Washington paper. Would not the weekly do as well for me and be less trouble to you?

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Lopes.

February 1<sup>st</sup>.

I have sent to you by discharged private Ballard of my Company, a small parcel for Mr. Lee. It is a little photograph of our Camp. You will probably get it in about a week.

Affectionately  
H. C. Lopes.



Camp Benton February 3<sup>d</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I am very glad to hear from Mary Ann that you are busy with your law case, and I hate to trouble you still further about my affairs, but I know you will appreciate my situation and find time to procure for me what I want. I find my boy Cornie will not do at all for me. As long as I nothing to do, and could look after him, he did pretty well and I rather like at first to superintend his cooking &c. but now I have a very great deal to do. First, I have to do a Captain's duty and see to and sign all returns, requisitions &c., see to everything, hear complaints of all kinds, see to the rations, make and sign passes &c. &c. Then I do all the guard and police duty of a Lieutenant, no slight thing, and besides this, we all now recite daily in tactics &c. to the Colonel, and as commander of a company have to give daily instruction and recitations to the Sergeants and Corporals, an altogether I am perfectly full of work. I do not in the least complain, but only tell you of this to show the necessity of a really good servant, which I think can only be got in Boston. Cornie at first was quite attentive, but now he runs away and wastes his time in the main, fails and neglects his duty. Also he is very slowly in managing his cooking matters. I do not want a man before the last of February or 1<sup>st</sup> of March, for I have advanced to Cornie some money for clothes.





I want to explain fully what sort of servant I want. He must be honest, sober, healthy and smart. A lazy man will do. He must be clean in his management of all cooking matters and he must have the rare quality of always getting along and putting up with everything. He must not expect very comfortable quarters. I want a man who can make the best of a little, who can get up something nice and comfortable out of an old tent and a few tin plates and cups and a rough board table, who can wash and cook and chop wood and run about and buy eggs and pick up things at farm houses and never be at fault or behind hand. I think a negro would be best. A man who had been cook and steward on board a vessel, who can make a little dirty galley look comfortable and clean. I think Kenrick would find a man. I think a really smart active nigger would be better than any one else. Niggers, when not lazy, are apt to be bright and wide awake. After all there is almost no real hard work, but just such as a nigger likes. I have written a long explanation, but I feel almost unable to describe what I want, and yet I have seen such men. Mrs. Humphrey's Elbert in Cambridge would be just right. I think, only he would not come of course. I think you know what kind of a man I want, if you only think of my position. I had thought of Mrs. Humphrey's present man, Elbert, but I fear he could not cook and would not be neat. You know what a capability to get along in dirty and ill furnished



quarters, a sea facing line develops. You know a man who has been  
to sea has all kinds of little shifts and ways to make things convenient  
and comfortable. This is why a thought of a ship's steward.  
A really good man like that would be entirely out of place.

I do not have time to oversee my meals and to clean up my things,  
and I must have it done for me by a good servant; especially if in  
march, my time will be <sup>entirely</sup> occupied with my company, and at the end of a  
long march, I want a man who will fly round and get up something  
to eat and extemporize a bed, or pitch a tent, and have a dry pair of  
socks ready, and do just what I want done without my having to  
oversee it all. You remember Albert at Cambridge, and how smart  
and ready he was. That is what I want, a cheerful make-the-best-  
of-it man. Now I have written this long letter merely for this  
purpose, because I feel its immense importance to me and my comfort  
and no doubt health. The man must be a good cook. Not one whom  
Mamma would care for in our kitchen, but one who can cook any  
=thing, in any kind of a pan or a pot.

I would be greatly obliged if at your leisure, you would inquire  
for me of Wash, and of John Mc. Feeley and of Kendall, and  
in case you happen on one who you are sure would exactly suit, try  
to engage him. He gets his board and his lodging here ... made beds,  
clothes, and blankets to sleep in. I would pay as high as \$20. - per  
month, if necessary, but this is very high. Your affectionate brother  
Henry Lopez.



Camp Barton 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment—  
February 6<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My Dear John.

I have this morning received your letter of the 2<sup>d</sup>, and I am  
glad to know that your case has been so important a one, and  
I earnestly hope they may prove faithful to the charge you have com-  
mitted to them and deliver me my boy with speed and safety. I have  
just been out to my first battalion drill in command of my Company,  
and got along quite well on the whole. I feel greatly obliged to you  
for your kindness in getting me so many things and I beg you will thank  
Mr. Willard for his assistance in regard to the wrench.

I have not received any of the things yet. Tell me what you think  
of Capt. Shepard. He is a very kind man and all that, but not at  
all a soldier. I am very glad to be in command here, but by and by  
the Captain will return and a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant will be appointed, and then  
my situation may not be so pleasant. The former Officers of Company  
K were Capt. Shepard, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Decker, now a Captain, and 2<sup>d</sup>  
Lieutenant Alden, now 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in another Company. I do not  
know who will be appointed to this Company. I think Lieut. Curtis  
is, on the whole, the most likely 2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant to be promoted, and I  
should be very sorry indeed to be obliged to room with him, and have him  
for my Senior in the Company. I cannot but think the Colonel



Should have put me at first into Company F. Capt. Cabot. I like Capt. Cabot very much. He is a real gentleman. I am allied to the best ones. I like him as well as I like any one of the Officers, and I respect him as much as any. I have, as I had got on to Company K, and Capt. Shephard liked me, I suppose the Colonel was unwilling to make a change, and when M. Allonell came, put him at once into Company F. Capt. Shephard told me that he had asked the Colonel to put me permanently in his Company, and I have found that the non-commissioned Officers have petitioned the Colonel to the same effect, and stated that it was the wish of the Company. I do not know what effect these things may have produced, and of course I am glad that I am thought well of, but I have still some inquiries as to my future life in Company K. Do not of course repeat all this I have written about myself. I only tell it you to explain exactly my position. On the whole then, taking into account the good will of the men, and other things, and that I have got used to the Company, and that we may soon advance, and that in all probability I shall have a good deal to do with the management of the Company, I am satisfied with my position and only anxious about my first Lieutenant.

As to Capt. Freulett, he has the reputation here of a most excellent Captain. Whittier, his 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant I like very much and he told me he should like to have me with him in Company A. I feel sure I could get along with Freulett. I have got quite intimate with Harry Sturges





whom I like very much. He is a very lively, cheerful and frank and true hearted. I was very sorry to see the account of Augustus Rodges' death. I hardly knew him however, but remember his appearance well. Labot had been quite ill of a fever attack like mine, only worse, for he had a relapse. I hope you will visit us in March. I hardly think we shall move before, unless a great victory of the South obliges the Rebels to retire and abandon Leesburg. Yesterday we shelled the Rebels from the ferry with a big Parrott gun.

I kept booming away every little while all day. There is nothing to prevent them from shelling us here at Camp, except the fact that we should probably reply and hot down Rich. Mo. Battery (Regular) which is camped near us to the river, and drive them off. As to the cold, yesterday morning was the coldest I have yet felt. I should think the thermometer must have been as low as 15° till say 10 O'clk. Often it is about 20° in the night, but warmer in the day and never any wind then. As to time, I should think the middle of March would be the best time for you to come here, and I cannot tell you how delighted I should be to see you. I have seen nothing of Professor Goodwin as yet. I wrote to Mr. Willard and said I hoped he would come on and see us and the other Regiments. I should be delighted to see him. If you come, surely bring to Camp a thick overcoat, a large Bay State Shawl, and a change of Underclothes. A valise would take everything.

As to the Germans. They are good soldiers. and all speak English.



and the commands are invariably given in English. Of course they understand the commands and such things much better than common English whines, but the regulations provide that all Soldiers shall speak English. Tell me if the old Colonel is really coming back. His return would give a great start to the Regiment. Tell Mary Ann about the Company for she inquired. I hope you got my letter about a servant. Do not engage any till you are sure he is just what I want. Do not let him pay more than \$10. a month. I to me hardly gives so much. You might bring him on. He would be very convenient for you. You can probably send everything by Capt. Shepard.

Good bye.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Ropes.

Enclosed letters for Curtis and Mary Ann. I have received one from Sister Mary.



Camp Benton, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
February 1862 Indiana

My dear John.

I received by last night's mail some of the £<sup>s</sup> for which  
much obliged. Lind. Lowell arrived last night and looks well.  
He told me he had bought my nipple wrench. This morning the  
Butler brought me from Boalsville the bundle containing the coat.  
In it I found an Almanac from you for which I am much obliged.  
Also a letter for Abbott which I have delivered. I have as yet  
seen or heard nothing of W<sup>m</sup> Perkins. I shall not give the coat to  
Corine, so he does not deserve it. I am more and more dissatisfied  
with him every day. I cannot leave anything to him to do as he will  
certainly neglect it if I am not by. He was a little sick for a day  
and while he was so I got a man of my Company, by name Morris,  
to do his work, and found a very great and immediate improvement.  
This Morris, when I first joined the Company, desired to be taken from  
the ranks, to be my servant. I did not want to take him from the  
ranks, and then thought Corine would do. Morris has lost the use  
of one eye, and as this unfits him for a soldier's duty, I got the Surgeon  
to certify to his physical disability (this is the term) and have applied  
for his discharge, which will no doubt soon be granted. If Morris  
is discharged I think I shall arrange him until you can get me a



first-rate man at home. The reason I did not want a man from the ranks is this. An Officer has the privilege of taking one man from his Company, as a servant, provided the man is willing and the Captain consents. This man still receives pay and rations from the Government, and is excused from all duty except occasional inspection. As the Officer generally gives him something additional and as the work is not hard, the place is sought after generally by several soldiers. If the Officer thus takes a man, he is called in the book "Officer's servant" and the Officer in his account states on his honor that such a man is employed by him in such a capacity and places his personal description and name in the record. If however the Officer states that he keeps a servant, not an enlisted man, he is allowed \$23. per month for wages for such servant and is required to write the name and description of the man, as in the former case. Now I will tell you how almost all the Officers manage it. They affirm they keep a servant, not an enlisted man and thus draw \$23. a month. Then they take a man from the ranks and keep him as a servant, and place a false name and a fabulous description on their account. Some even take two men from the ranks in this way, one for a cook. And this is justified on the ground of universal custom and the Government knows and encourages it, and says it is only a legal form in the Government to require the certificate, and that this means is intended to increase the pay of Officers. For my part I cannot set my name to such a falsehood and then explain it away. I cannot but think it is cheating the Government. So I prefer to take





a servant not assisted and pay him regularly. The wife laughed at my squeamishness here, but I found that Cabot & Miller were with me. So I can take Morris as soon as he is discharged, and perhaps he will do for me. I hope you will not cease to look out for a really good man for me, and will engage such if you find him, but do not hurry, it is no to get at all a doubtful man, as I have happened on a fair servant here, and am not in positive need. I think by being not in a hurry you will at last fall in with exactly the article wanted. I have written a great deal about a servant, and I fear I shall put you to much trouble, but if you were here and could see how much I needed one, and how indispensable a good one was, I know you would not mind the trouble.

Thank you for telling my things. The bindings are not all bulky but come in a paper box about 10 inches square and 3 inches high. Do not send by Express. It takes a very long time. Capt. Shepard could bring a box as well as not. I have not yet received the box you sent by Express. I am very sorry for Mother and hope she will soon be well.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Rogers.

Enclose letter for Mary Ann.



Camp Benton February 13<sup>th</sup> 1865.

My dear Sister.

I enclose a letter to sister Mary, which I shall be much obliged to you to forward. We were delighted to hear yesterday of the glorious victory at Burwood, but have as yet no particulars. I hope none of our ~~2nd~~ Regiment friends are hurt. It was just tea time and the orders came to turn out the entire Regiment on the parade. This was most quickly done, and there was Col. Relfren and the Adjutant and another Officer. The Colonel read (from his horse) the splendid news "Whole Army destroyed, 2000 prisoners taken, 1000 killed and wounded, 10 stands of colors taken, entire rebel fleet taken and destroyed. Elizabeth City burnt to the ground, our loss 300." He read this in a loud, clear voice, and then called for three cheers for the Stars and Stripes, which, I tell you were given with a will. The men broke up cheering and wild with excitement, and the camp was in a very excited state all the evening. The band came out and played "Hail Columbia" &c. &c. and all together it was quite an event. I was Officer of the guard for the day. What do you think of Stone? Co. has 2 batteries are ordered to the ferry and we have been shelling the Rebels. They get off a tremendous gun every little while. I hear it is an immense Parrott gun.

What has become of my box sent by Express? You had better make enquiries, for I want the books very much, and quantities of



boxes have arrived since you saw that. I will send again by Express.  
Yesterday Officer's baggage was weighed preparatory to a move.  
Weather pleasant and warm, and wind dying up fast. I like my new  
man Morris quite well, but hope for even a better from you. Do not  
engage till you are quite sure he will do exactly. The whole Camp  
are now very anxious to move and are excited on hearing of our late  
victories. Our balloonist here, Capt. Steinburg (not Professor Low,  
as I at first wrongly called him) says there are a great many more  
Rebels opposite us than we have men here, and that we could not  
advance. He knows from his balloon. Have you received back  
my photographs, and are they being struck off?

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Ropes.



Camp Benton, February 18<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I enclose a letter for Mary Ann. I have not any letter from you to answer, but I must write to tell you of an event which will do me more good than you can well imagine in a military and regimental way. Billy Milton, whose place as Adjutant, Pearson is soon to fill, is to be my first Lieutenant. I cannot tell you how relieved, gratified and pleased I am. I must explain a little regimental politics first. You know what College politics are. We have something similar here. You see that somebody must be appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant as there are not enough. Now there are two companies unsupplied, and Company K is one, and of course I began to think a great deal as to who was to be over me, and my room-mate &c. The Senior 2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant is Miller, but he has refused a promotion, not wishing to leave his German Company. Then comes Kesser a cool fellow, kind and easy, and a man who went through Ball's Bluff under Cassar, but who is exceedingly lazy, and indolently neglects his duty. He has been kicked once, and is now the only 2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant who belonged originally to the Regiment who has not been offered a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenantcy. Then we all come in a bunch: Murphy, Curtis, Herbert, Patton and myself, that is as to date of commission, but Curtis having been nominated by Col. Lee before the battle, would naturally come first of us. Now I am since





I have come here, that there is an excellent class of men who think about alike in Regimental matters comprising all the college men Sturgis, Murphy perhaps, and in fact all but one or two. Captains Shepard, Beckwith, and Lieutenants Muller and Lee Barnes, are not exactly in the right set, but (except the last) are not disliked. Curtis is a great friend of Bartlett's, and a friend of no one else. He is young, about 19, and a surly, stuck up, cold hearted kind of fellow. He makes a good enough Officer, but has been under Abbott all the time and no one knows what he would do alone. He is a man whom I do not like at all, neither does Herbert nor in fact any one. Now this Curtis has yesterday been appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and will probably be with Herbert. Every one says it is Frank Bartlett who is showing his friend quickly along. The old Officers are indignant that a mere boy, and a boy of no particular merit, should be put over Meber. The reply would be that Meber is unfit for the place, and Curtis, as he stands 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>d</sup> should be promoted unless there was a very strong reason to the contrary. Herbert is very indignant and hopes to be able to change his Company. Other things I have observed in regard to Sergeants &c. which show a very great partiality for Company 1 at Headquarters and it is generally thought that Bartlett's long head has prepared his old Company for his return. This is of course between ourselves, or very intimate friends. Now I foresee Curtis' promotion as probable, and felt very eager to have my Company



settled, for there is only one 1<sup>st</sup> in the field I dislike more and from (Milton)  
I saw no danger. You may think then how delighted I was when the Ad-  
-jutant opened the subject, and told me he could have any Company he wished,  
and should like Company K. There is not a 1<sup>st</sup> in the field I would  
rather have. He is a most excellent Officer, a splendid fellow, the most  
popular in the Regiment, I should think, and a man any Captain or  
2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant would have been delighted to obtain. I feel now sure of  
Company K, and sure that my position in the Regiment will be as pleasant  
as it possibly can be. We shall chum and eat together the Captain alone.  
Speaking of the men, I have alluded to Milton. I formerly spoke well  
of him to Mary Ann, so it would be better not to disabuse her of that good  
impression but I have seen ample reason to alter my opinion of him, and  
to consider him a vain, false, conceited and thoroughly col. hearted man.  
He is moreover overbearing to his men, and very neglectful of his duty,  
opidly so. He is detested in the Regiment, but the Colonel seems to fancy him.  
I may have used strong language but I assure you I think it just.  
Herbert and another fellow both told me that after he had said a few  
words they felt always a very strong desire to take him by the collar  
and kick him out of sight. His assumption of 'superiority' -  
in everything is perfectly ridiculous, and sometimes enough to make a  
man almost knock him down. He talks of the war as if he was  
Mc. Clellan, of the Regiment as if Colonel, and of women as if he  
was 50 years old, and had been the most perfect rake in the world and the



most fashionable and was giving advice to a few boys.

I find the opinions you expressed to me about Captains Tremlett and Putnam confirmed by the men here. Both are good Captains, but neither fit for a higher post. Tremlett was remarkable for his obscenity and licentiousness. Neither have one half of Bartlett's ability.

I find Lowell is a shockingly poor Officer, and they say Holmes is no bad yet, one will probably be soon a Captain. The more I study an Officer's life, the more I see the need of energy, and business ability, qualities which neither possess. Patten is doing much better, and he (so are Lowell and Holmes) is liked and in the best set of course. Little Port as they called him made a name for himself by asking (when on picket) if he should fire into the houses which shewed a light after 9 O'clock.

I am getting to like Capt. Macy more and more. He is a real true, sound man; very quiet and unassuming, very determined, and an excellent Officer.

Do tell me the prospects of a servant and the fate of my box. Perhaps you do not like so much of a letter about the matter I have made it long without thinking, and have given you quite an insight into the Regiment. I hope it will not bore you, but I know you like to talk of men, and so, as we cannot talk, I write. I have received the nippole wrench. Papers come regularly. Glorious news from Burnside. We are burning to do something here.



Whittier has been appointed as Genl. Foreman. Still for the present.  
Foreman is no Officer. O' for Col. See. Then when he comes  
we may advance.

Love to all.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry Ropes.

Enclosed are letters for M. A. R.





Camp Benton, February 20<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

Thank you for your letter of February 11<sup>th</sup>. and 15<sup>th</sup> received on the 18<sup>th</sup>. I am very much obliged to you for all you have done, and have no doubt I shall like my servant very much. As you are all desirous at home, I will share, so as to look just as I did before I left home, and then have a new card photograph taken here.

I have written to Mr. Case, Army Express Agent, Washington, enclosing full directions to direct my way how to come to this Camp. I am perfectly satisfied with your agreement. Now, as to your coming. You know how delighted I shall be to see you, but for your own sake, after much thought on the subject, I do not advise you to come so early as February 28<sup>th</sup>, unless you have good reason to think this Regiment will move before or about that time. The only reason for this advice is a regard for your comfort. You can hardly imagine what it is to be surrounded with a sea of mud, and to have wet feet and a muddy floor all the time. They say that after March 1<sup>st</sup> we have here fresh, cool weather, and strong winds, and I cannot but think you would enjoy it more if you put off your visit till the middle of March. However we may move any time, and I certainly should like very much to see you before we enter on active service. You must judge, only be assured I should be most delighted to see you whenever you come.



and will make you comfortable and give you enough to eat and a good fire and bed. I get to fare better all the time. Please bring me when you come a supply of large size writing paper, and one or two India Rubber bands for my pocket-book. When you come, better only bring a thick overcoat, a thick shawl, and change of Underclothes, and a change of boots. Wear the sturdiest and highest top boots you have. Wear flannel travelling shirt, as we cannot get a white shirt washed and starched up here. Wear paper collars for the same reason.

I am very busy with the Court Martial now. Yesterday we sat from 10 A.M. till at P.M. To-day we shall probably do the same. I cannot stop to write about this glorious news. Thank you very much for your description. May we not long be idle! Milton is going home on a leave, and will be in Boston about March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have not sent my servant and would like to keep him to come on with you. Do so.

Your ever affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp Benton Daily, February 23<sup>d</sup> 1862.

My Dear John.

I have to acknowledge yours of February 1<sup>st</sup> = received February 10<sup>th</sup> = and yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> = received 21<sup>st</sup> =, the former I received from my servant Harry and the latter by mail. This morning I have received the box from Adjutant Birson, with everything perfectly safe. I will write to Mother of the box. I feel perfectly satisfied with Harry, and I am very much obliged indeed to you for getting so good a man. To be sure I have had him but 3 days as yet, but I can see what sort of a man he is, already. We are delighted to see the Adjutant. As to your coming I wrote you about the roads &c. They are now in an awful state, and only yesterday the Suther's light wagon with one trunk in it, was stuck in the mud, and it took several extra horses to get it out. Still, as you know, the Army may move very soon. I therefore only tell you this and leave you to judge. Only remember, rubber shoes are of no use, and rubber boots are very uncomfortable to wear all the time, so the best things are stout, large leather boots knee high and pants tucked in. I will make you very comfortable for a Camp, and I cannot tell you how delighted I shall be to see you. It is no use for me to begin to write about political and military matters for I should never stop. Our reserve company Capt. Macer has just come up and reports that <sup>yesterday</sup> very heavy fighting was heard in the direction



of Drainsville and village of Mustang distinctly heard. They think  
McClellan was engaged, and if so it must have been a great fight.  
Please enquire to Father that the Adjutant mentioned to me that he had some  
inquiry for me, and that he would give me an account of it very soon.  
I have seen nothing of Professor Goodwin. 2<sup>d</sup> Lieut. Perkins  
lately appointed arrived here yesterday. I have to tell you some bad news  
for me. Adjutant Milton (who I meant <sup>you</sup> was to be my 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant) has  
received an appointment as Asst. Surgeon's Staff, and will be detached from  
the Regiment and I shall have another 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. I think it may not  
be Curtis. Murphy is the most likely to be promoted, and he is a fine  
soldier and a good blunt honest man but he rose from the ranks and although  
well worthy of his post, is not a man I should pick out for a room-mate  
at all. He is an Irishman, was in the regular Army and was one of  
the 45 men who held Fort Pickens with Slemmer. When you return  
I shall send home a lot of things I shall not want, including the Coat  
suit for Corine. I want you to bring on for me, or send if you have  
a chance, before you come yourself, a copy of Fane Eyre, same style  
as the Professor. I want to give it to Robert who has never read it.

Robert would be very much obliged if you would bring him a box of 6  
bottles, 3 of Brandy and 3 of Whisky bought of Codman & Parker  
at \$1.25 per bottle. They box it up at the Store and it is no trouble to  
have one more box. I hope you will bring it, as it would be a  
very kind thing to do for Robert.





I shall send some books back by you and my Buffalo, as it is warmer now, and they don't have a long cold spring here. If you could bring me some ale I should be very much obliged. You might have 1/2 dozen put up in Herbert's box. It should be delightful to get some ale.

Probably the clayey nature of the soil makes it more muddy here, and we might find a dry road after a few miles of mud. I know nothing of the kind of soil it is in Virginia. As I am Officer of Police to-day, I cannot go to church.

I remain your affectionate  
Merry ropes.

If you let me know exactly when you shall be at the Fair, or at Leesville, I can probably have a wagon for your baggage.  
M. R.



Harpers Ferry, Va. 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
March 15<sup>th</sup> 1862 10 O.C.P. Saturday.

My dear John.

I wrote to Mary Ann from Charlestown, Va. where we bivouacked on the 12<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup> we marched in fine style through Charlestown. In the middle of the town we made a long halt. When we started again the band struck up Dixie, and it did my heart good to march to that tune with flying colors past the prison where John Brown was confined. We marched 12 miles to Berryville, and bivouacked again.

This is only 8 miles from Winchester, and in the evening a vast body of troops came marching back from Winchester and we heard that we all were to return. The great fields and woods were perfectly filled with men for miles around and during the night in a blaze with the camp fires. Yesterday morning (14<sup>th</sup>) we all started and marched back again to Charlestown, a vast Army, Mass. 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Minnesota, New York, Michigan and quantities of other Regiments, horse foot and artillery, the long line stretching further than you could see in either direction from the highest hills. Last night we were told that our whole Division is to go to Fort Mifflin to be near Meitzelmann, thence to Richmond. To-day we marched from Charlestown here, and are now in deserted houses in the outskirts of the town. As it is raining hard, I write this in a little room of a



small brick house deserted and containing no furniture. It has been used probably by troops, now and the Rebels. We are said to be awaiting for the Cero. I depend entirely on my knapsack, and stand the hard marching as well as anyone. I have sent home my Buffalo, as I cannot carry it, and it is warm here and I do not need it.

I have written to Father about sending me some money. I now hear we shall not be paid till May. I have not been extravagant in any way, but one must have ready money on a march, and as you know I have not as yet received any from the Government and have been obliged to borrow, and so the Quartermaster has not some, <sup>and</sup> I know all the fellows need every cent of their money. I am, therefore, in great need of an abundant supply (of course as a loan till pay-day). I hope you will see that I have some sent by the earliest opportunity so as to pay my debts as well as to live. I do not suppose this will be in the least inconvenient to Father. Please see to it for me, if you can.

Love to all.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Bellevue Heights 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment.  
March 10<sup>th</sup> = 1862.

My dear John.

I have received your letter announcing your return and giving me the intelligence of the Class elections. This is the only letter from home I have received since we marched from Camp Lee. Do tell me what has become of Magelline? Why was not he post? I think on the whole Mc. Brien was the best choice in the class but I am very much astonished at Demmitt's election. Do write me about it, and tell Jeffries and others to write. Do not let anybody cause writing for fear I shall not get letters, and still direct to Washington, D. C. We get all letters, though late. I have written to you about having some money sent me. Please see to it that I have a supply in some way. You know the Government have never paid me anything yet, and this shameful delay of the Quartermaster has troubled everybody, and I feel anxious to repay the about \$30. = I have been obliged to doctors of the fellows here. I do not think it would be at all inconvenient to Father to send me \$100. =, but if you think it is do not ask him for that amount, but borrow it for me, and use my name in any way you see fit.

It is very uncomfortable here indeed, and I most earnestly hope we shall soon move on but all is uncertain in war, and now the





report is that the 2<sup>d</sup> are to remain and guard the Railroad between  
here and Winchester. I hope our Buffalo got along safely.  
I have not the least news to communicate, except regarding the Regi-  
ment. Lieut. S. Barnes and Capt. Beckwith have resigned.  
The former refused to obey an order to put out of the camp all but  
soldiers and servants very foolishly, for he could have accomplished  
his purpose perfectly without making a martyr of himself. He had  
brought a run away slave into camp, and you know he is a great  
Abolitionist. Capt. Beckwith is you know a poor Officer, one of  
the old set, and lately got drunk, and had the horrors &c. and got  
into a row so the best way to settle both difficulties was to accept  
both resignations and pass over the matter quietly. Lieut. Barnes  
might have put his slave just over the line, and then had him regis-  
tered as a servant and kept him as well as not; but you know  
how a certain class of men like to make sacrifices of themselves  
for conscience's sake, and Lieut. Barnes flatly refused to obey and  
was immediately put in arrest by the Colonel.

Adjutant Pearson has received an appointment on some staff,  
and who do you think has been selected to act as Adjutant? Why, Curtis,  
Bartlett's friend chosen over the heads of every 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in  
the Regiment. Of course this has given the greatest dissatisfaction.  
There was however one pretty strong reason for this appointment, viz:  
no Captain would take Curtis as his 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. So, for the return



of Col. Sumner for a strong hold to the Regiment.

Your affectionate brother  
Curry.

Capt. Shepard desires his regards.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Me. Vol., Wash =  
=ington, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1862 13.<sup>30</sup> P.M.

My dear John.

We have just received notice to start in one hour, and I hasten to acknowledge the following letters. One from you March 21<sup>st</sup> by Lieut. Holmes, one from Maria Ann - same date, and one from Mother, 21<sup>st</sup>, the 3 last pages written by you. This latter I got after writing to Father this morning. I have also received letters from Jeffries and Mr. Quincy. Some time ago I got a letter from Jack Lee. If you can, please thank all these, and say I do not know when I can answer any. I think we are now going down toward Norfolk. One of the above letters was by Capt. Kemlett. I shall write whenever I can, but that may be very seldom.

Our Division consists of (at least) Buell's, Goeman's, and Linn's new Brigades. The 10<sup>th</sup> Mass., 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan, Rhode Island Artillery, Van Allen Cavalry, and several New York Regiments are in our Brigade.

Good bye. Love to all. In great haste

Your affectionate brother  
Wm. Curry.



On board Steamer "Catskill", near Fort  
Munroe, March 30<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I wrote to Father day before yesterday, soon after we left Washington. We proceeded well till night, but in the night we got a rough sea & a fire. We got up the one and put out the other, and laid at anchor till daylight. Yesterday we ran till evening, and then anchored for the night, as the wind was East and some sea, and our crowded river steamer very unfit for rough water. This morning at 9 O'clock it cleared a little and we proceeded on our voyage, and expect to be in to-night. I hear that there is a vast Army now at Fort Munroe.

As to my photograph I have expressed a very decided dislike to the picture which was taken when I had a half grown beard. I still, very naturally, feel unwilling that that picture should be multiplied and given to my friends. Of course, if any of you like it or any picture of me, why keep a copy, but if you give away generally any of those pictures of me, you do so entirely contrary to my wish so often expressed. I very much prefer the excellent likeness taken of me just before I started, which you sent to me as Camp Denton, and which my friends here thought so good. I prefer that to any yet taken. If you still dislike all the pictures, wait till my whiskers grow and if I can, I will then have another taken.





I fear I do not at all understand your theories in regard to the war. When we get to Fort Monroe I hope to get my trunk and my map.

Love to all.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

Colmes desires to be remembered to you and to John C. Brown.



Camp 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment 1 mile beyond  
Big Bethel, Va. Sunday  
April 6<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I write to Father by this mail. Have just received yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> April. We have got a tremendous Army here. Wilton (who knows) tells me we have in all 135,000 men and 500 pieces of Artillery. The Rebels abandoned a very strong place at Big Bethel the day before we came. When we had marched about 5 miles from Hampton, we halted, and soon about 5000 regular Infantry passed us, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. I have met Lieut. Martwell, Adjutant of the Regulars, here, a very fine fellow. Here Mr. Clellan passed us, and we did not recognize him. I was very sorry. We bivouached just beyond the Big Bethel earthworks on Friday, and yesterday we rose early and marched on passing the Regulars and vast quantities of other troops, and at about 1 O'clock made a very long halt. As I had been on guard and had had no sleep, and had marched since 5 O'clock I was very tired. Where we halted several roads met and before us was a very large plain perfectly covered with troops, all halted. Soon we heard a distant cheering constantly coming nearer, it was said Mr. Clellan was coming. We drew up and presented Arms, and he rode through the whole Army to the front with his whole Staff and Escort. We and all the rest cheered most tremendously.



and the amount of noise made by the shouts of the men was tremendous. I had a perfect view of him. He is a square stout man, with a light complexion, short sandy hair, small light yellow moustache and imperial, red cheeks, and a heavy, square wide head. He had his hat off, and was smiling and bowing all round, and seemed to notice everyone. He looks as if nothing could daunt him, and nothing discourage him. He looks frank and pleasant and hopeful. I was very much pleased with his appearance. He rode smiling by and evidently much pleased with his splendid reception. Soon after he passed we had a heavy thunder storm followed by a very hot sun indeed, and it was really oppressively hot.

At about 3 O'clock came the heavy boom of a gun ahead, and another and then 2 or 3 together and so it continued very heavy guns a long way off. As I was very tired I fell asleep and woke at about 11 O'clock. The cannonade was then one constant roar. The order came to fall in, and we went on, passing ahead of 2 or 3 Divisions and then turning off on a cross road to the left. The cannon now nearer and heavier. Soon we heard volleys of Minnie's and a running fire. We marched through a very extensive Rebel camp deserted very lately. Dr. Cahoon came by and told me there were Rebel batteries 2 miles ahead which must be taken before night. The firing now became less. Only distant guns heard. After a very tiresome and long tramp through deep mud, and over one awful road, we suddenly came out on to one of the great open places surrounded with woods which they have in this flat



country, and I saw about 30,000 men as I afterwards found drawn up. Columns closed and the caissons in the rear and flanks. I really thought we were to find an enemy. Instantly the order came to close column by Division on 1<sup>st</sup> Division, which was done, and then we rested some time. The firing in front had about ceased and soon we stacked arms and quietly encamped, and here we are. To-day we are resting and awaiting supplies. The regular Artillery cleared the way for us yesterday, and our quindrats are up the York river and shelling the Rebels, and they are firing heavily. I am now speaking to a Rhode Island battery man just returned from a reconnaissance to the Rebels. He says they are entrenched in a semi-circle  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles before us and that there has been fighting to-day. He saw our fleet shelling them. Several Artillery men have been killed and wounded. We are the central column, Keyes the left, Porter the right. We shall undoubtedly attack in one or 2 days, unless they surrender, and they cannot escape. Our men are perfectly confident of the result. They have only about 10,000 men under Meagher.

To-day, say how ago Capt. Beethell came to me and ordered me to take 20 men of our Company, and go as a guard to Genl. Canine immediately, saying we might have skirmishing &c. I went with Generals Sedgwick and Canine into the woods. Before we had got a mile, the General told me to halt, and went a short distance forward, and then returned and dismissed the guard and me. I thought it quite an honor although it did not amount to much really. W.L.





I expect that before this reaches you I shall have been in the greatest battle which ever took place on this continent. I do not like to write much, but of course, I know what may happen, and I feel perfectly prepared for any result to myself, and feel only anxious to do my duty in battle. God grant I may! I do not feel much concerned for my own life, and am glad to rest the result in higher hands. Please do not read this letter to the family, for Mother, I know, will be very anxious when she knows how near we are. The letter I sent to Father she will of course see. I am perfectly well, and the weather is delightful and very warm.

I think we shall take the entrenchments and York town and 10,000 men. We have 130,000 men, 10,000 regulars, and 500 pieces of Artillery, a very great part regular. And we have M<sup>r</sup>. Clellan and on the whole splendid troops, all perfectly confident and ready for anything.

Love to Mary Ann: shall try to write again and answer her letter.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment near Fort -  
-town, Va. April 9<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I wrote to you and to Father from this Camp on Sunday last. On Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Regiments with Capt. Saunders' Company of sharpshooters all under Brigadier General Lane made a reconnaissance, and as I was present, and as it came very near being a fight, I will give you a particular account of it all. But first let me say that on Monday a heavy North East rain storm set in, and has continued ever since, and the roads are impassable, and the great advance must be retarded at or 5 days. We have been without tents, and have suffered very much sleeping wet and cold everything soaked through and still no sign of clearing off. I write this in the Sutler's tent, where I may be able to sleep to-night.

Well, on Monday the Regiment received orders to fall in without knapsacks at 7 A.M. and we marched off, the 10<sup>th</sup> just ahead of us. Capt. Shepard was Officer of the day, and he and Elders, Officer of the Guard were the only Officers left at Camp, except Captains Denslett and Eubank who are sick. So I commanded Company K. We marched about 2 miles and halted on the edge of the woods and formed in line and then received orders to load, cress and halfcock, and to advance with perfect silence. The Surgeons accompanied us and got ready their



Sketches &c. We advanced for several miles in the woods frequently halting. The roads very soft and bad. Often we went right through the thick woods. The object of the expedition was to reconnoitre the enemy's position and advanced works and an Engineer was with us and rode with the General in every direction. We marched in a very round about way and at last came out on a road, and the 10<sup>th</sup> formed on the right, and we followed and formed on the right as we passed the 1<sup>st</sup>. Thus we were drawn up in line, the 10<sup>th</sup> on the right, and we on the left. There were thick woods on the right of the road, in front of our line. Soon I was ordered by Capt. Bartlett to select 4 good men, and post them, 2 in front of the line in the woods, just as far as we could see, and the other 2 as far beyond, and to tell them to keep a good look out and report anything. The other Companies and the 10<sup>th</sup> did the same. I posted the men, and observed that just beyond the outer post there was an open place in the woods. I returned to the Company, and we waited about one hour, when my picket sent in for me. I went out and they pointed to several men in the open place and on the edge of the woods beyond. I thought they were our men, and went out a short distance farther, and saw one man with a gun wearing a brown overcoat about 1/2 way across the open place. He soon retired to the woods and I saw several others on the edge of the woods. I returned and reported to the Colonel and he told me that the men must be Rebels, and that we were close to them, and should remain



quiet and not let them know we were there. I returned to the outpost and told them not to fire if they could help it. I then returned to my post in the Company and before long the reports of rifles rang from the woods in front and on the left. It was kept up for several hours, some times only dropping, and often rattling in a very lively manner. The 10<sup>th</sup> man and some of our men, contrary to the orders of Genl. Dana, had gone over the open place I spoke of, and found a rebel fort and entrenched camp, just between the woods at the other side. It was here that the firing took place. All this time of course the Engineer was examining the approaches &c. The Rebels only replied with musketry. It was now raining steadily. At about 3 O'clock orders came to fall in, and we marched by the left flank along the road and soon came to an open field. Here we halted, and the 10<sup>th</sup> formed in line of battle here and deployed the right flank Company as skirmishers. We then marched on and soon came to the burning ruins of a fine house. We here turned to the right and entered the woods, and came out on a large open place. We marched quietly along the edge of the woods and halted and formed. I will draw a little plan for you to see exactly how it was. Here the men were ordered to throw off anything that would hinder their progress, and Rubber blankets and Over Coats were dropped. You see by the plan that we were now very near the Rebels, but I did not know exactly how near they were yet. I have marked the direction of our advance after we left the 10<sup>th</sup> by a dotted line.







- A. Where we halted and put out pickets.
- B. Where our men first opened fire without orders.
- C. Where the 10<sup>th</sup> drew up.
- D. Where their skirmishers were sent out.
- E. Where we formed and sent out skirmishers.
- F. Final position.

Just as we got into the position (marked F) the 10<sup>th</sup> on our right opened fire suddenly from the woods, and kept up a very heavy and steady fire from this time.

Up to this time the Rebels had fired only muskets, but now they suddenly opened with a 32 lbs. shell gun and threw shells right into the 10<sup>th</sup> on our right. I have drawn it as if the 10<sup>th</sup> were nearer



than we were. They were not only a slight elevation in the field  
hid us from them. The shells exploded very rapidly and Gen. Dana  
who was with us all the time, ordered skirmishers forward, and Com=  
panies A, A, G & H were sent off Co. I was first sent out alone, and  
Abbott marched them straight forward and in another moment they  
would have gained the crest of the hill and been terribly exposed to the  
enemy. Dana instantly saw this and shouted out "March that Com=  
pany more to the left they will get a shell" and Dr. Crehore  
ran up and overtook them and gave the order, and the Company was  
thus saved from a close volley. The next Company in line is mine  
and after Abbott had gone up, I thought I should go next, but Capt.  
Shepard has never instructed the men in skirmishing, and of course  
they know nothing about it. So I explained to the men in a few  
words what I thought most important and awaited the order. But  
Capt. Bartlett, as soon as Abbott had entered the woods passed over  
Company K and ordered forward the next 2 Companies K and L  
as skirmishers and ordered me to close my Company up on the remainder  
of the line. This I did. Our men received orders not to fire till  
they could see the enemy well. In the plan I have marked by a  
dotted line the advance of Company I. As soon as I closed up  
my Company then we faced to the left, and marched round the edge  
of the field (where I place the dotted line) to our final position (marked  
F'). Just before we advanced however, a detachment of sharpshooters



went up, and even the fire of the Rebel 32 lbs. slackened very much. We then halted and formed close to the enemy, but unseen by them and the firing continued. While we were waiting here, I asked Capt. Bartlett why he had passed over our Company when he sent out skirmishers. He said we could not skirmish very well, and told that we were the main column still and would probably soon assault the enemy's works. However, I suppose Genl. Tana did not wish to bring on a battle, and as soon as the Engineer who was always in front, had finished his business, the Companies skirmishing were quietly drawn in, the firing dropped away by degrees, and we were marched back to the road as we came. It was 3 1/2 O'clock when we sent out Company I as skirmishers, and at when we took our last position, and we had marched 10 or 15 miles, and it was pouring with rain and the roads horribly muddy. The Trammery Regiment had been all day cutting a road for Artillery behind us, and so this we marched back, after being led by mistake much out of the way. It was pitch dark when we got back tired and wet. The 12<sup>th</sup> lost one man killed and several wounded, including a Captain. The poor fellow killed was hit by a shot and when we passed was lying on a stretcher bloody and gasping. I saw 2 more wounded men. The Surgeons got everything ready just before we sent out Company I, but no one of our Regiment was hurt. For my part I did not hear a single bullet, and we only passed near me



and broke a laugh from a tree. But we were expecting every moment to be led on to the assault, and I doubt if even the General decided not to attack till a few moments before we fell back. There was a large force of Rebels behind the fort and they had five cannon mounted while we had none. I hear the reconnaissance was perfectly successful. Well, we got back to Camp soaked with mud and rain, and no tents or shelter. The Captain has got his rubber blanket stretched to form a shelter, and we tried to sleep, but laid awake cold and wet the rain beating in and filling everything. It has rained ever since, and I and every thing belonging to me is wet and cold, and altogether we have suffered more than I ever imagined we could stand. It is too bad to give us no tents, and it is awfully uncomfortable although I stand it perfectly well in health.

The roads are now horrible beyond description, and the great advance must certainly be delayed for several days.

I have to acknowledge your letter of April 5<sup>th</sup>, and a letter from Father by Col. Lee who sent it from Fort Monroe where he now is. I received at the same time a most kind letter from Mrs. Lee dated Washington. I have received several news papers. I hope that before now Father has received my letters acknowledging the receipt of the \$100., the drafts and the box, and knows that I have drawn for \$50. from Messrs. Riggs & Co. I am delighted to hear of our class and the H.P.C. and ashamed of '63. I agree with you as to the cause of their weakness





and want of energy. My love to all at home and to my college friends.  
Everybody must excuse my lack of writing for the present. We are  
on the eve of a tremendous attack, and God only knows what a day may  
bring forth. I thought you would be interested in all these particulars,  
even though we were not engaged after all. I hope to write fully  
about anything I hear. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>d</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Mass. Regiments  
are about here.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment near Fort Sumter  
Va. April 13<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My Dear John.

We are still here, and the regular siege has not yet begun. Great reinforcements, I hear, are constantly arriving for us and heavy siege guns have begun to come up from Ship Point. I understand that regular parallels are to be opened, and the place will be a second Sebastopol. If Mr. Clellan knows any one branch of military knowledge better than any other, it certainly is the art of attacking earth works, and no one has any doubt of our final success.

Merry desires me to say that he would be glad if Mr. Richmond would please open the letter he speaks of, take the money enclosed, and make the purchases requested, and send the same to Merry's family. Merry would thank you if you would afterwards send him the letter and if you have a chance, the cigars. Merry will write a letter to his family, and send it by me to you to be forwarded. Probably you could send any things Merry may wish to send to his family, by Messrs. B. E. Clark & Co.

We have beautiful weather again, though cold nights. I have drawn and received the \$50. I wrote to Father about, by Adams Express. I shall send to you very soon by Express a parcel containing some private letters to be given to Mary Ann and several little mementoes of the Rebellion. I have collected for you a little value however.



I have just heard that our parts are to be brought up to day, and this looks like a long stay here. I earnestly hope I shall get my trunk down, and make a little brief appearance in the way of clothes &c. We live here altogether on the Commissary Stores and hard bread having beef and pork are our regular food. I am perfectly well. As to when or how our operations will begin, I am sure you know as well as I do. I think not for several days at least.

The Chymistries are at the Fort, I hear, only waiting for the fall of Yorktown to come up and pay off all the Regiments.

Love to all. I hope to write often. You must excuse this writing done in open air on a hard bread case.

Your affectionate brother  
J. Perry.



Camp near Yorktown Va. 20<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>  
April 15<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I have just received your letter of April 11<sup>th</sup> - I am tired of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 newspapers and I hasten to reply. Here we are settled down and encamped in the same spot where we arrived a week ago last Saturday, expecting to take Yorktown the next day. We have our tents the Captain and I have a nice wall tent together and our men have built up 2 nice bunks and a table, on which I am now writing, and altogether I am perfectly comfortable. The great storm has passed entirely away and to-day is clear and really hot. We have dress parades and drills just as if we were in Camp Denton, and we now hardly ever hear gun. There is no skirmishing, because I suppose the Generals are perfectly acquainted with the situation and strength of the enemy. Our pickets are posted out every night a long distance in the woods but I do not suppose the enemy have the least idea of coming out to attack us. I hear that large siege guns have been brought in from Ship Point, and that large bodies of troops have been landed there but as the Ship Point road is above this camp I have seen nothing of these movements. We have no drum beats or music now, by order of Mc. Clellan, probably for fear the enemy should know our position. Yesterday we had a grand inspection. Of our Company





was inspected, and Genls. Dana and Sedgwick were looking at the men,  
guns &c., an old white haired Gentleman came quietly up, and seeing  
Capt. Bartlett and me standing a little apart as he passed he said  
most pleasantly: Good morning Gentlemen, and we saluted, as he wore  
a General's straps. I was Genl. Sumner Commander of our Corps  
& Maine. He looked like a most excellent, retired, orthodox minister.  
Sedgwick is a man like Capt. Th. Leach, only more refined and  
a very little pompous. He is exceedingly prompt and has things put  
through, and will not hear of delay about anything. Sumner has a  
long white beard and stoops a little. I feel, as you say, that we  
are on the eve of a great contest, and yet it is perfectly impossible to keep  
up a state of suspense in one's mind. I did not know this before, but  
now I am satisfied that a man can get used to any state of things, and  
feel perfectly easy, no matter what is impending. This general feeling,  
however is probably in a great measure the result of the perfect confidence  
in the result which all feel. We hear of Rebel reinforcements, but  
we only think of how much greater will be the final success. I feel  
sure that we can bring an over-powering <sup>force</sup> against the Rebels and how-  
-ever many more they have, it is only for Me. Clellan to telegraph  
and be furnished with any number he wishes. Then we have a splendid  
Army. I had no idea before how good other Regiments were compared  
with ours. I had thought the 20<sup>th</sup> was a long way ahead of all, but  
this is not so. Many other Regiments are our equals in every respect,



and perhaps our superiors. Then there are about all the regulars, and  
regular Artillery and Cavalry that can be got together, and a large propor-  
tion of New England and Western Volunteers. Then we are most splendidly  
equipped, clothed and fed, and altogether, I cannot well imagine a finer  
modern Army. No you saw, there may be terrible fighting, but while  
each man's life is uncertain, the feeling that the great cause is certainly  
to triumph makes every man only eager to be in the great final attack.  
Last evening Jim Starr (Sgt<sup>th</sup>) came over to the Camp. He  
is about 6 miles in the rear, brigaded with the 6<sup>th</sup> Regulars. I hear  
he has a splendid Regiment. He looks very well, and has shaved  
all but moustache and Mc. Clellan. As to my health, I never  
in the world was better. I am as perfectly well as I can imagine  
being, and I think I know how to keep well. We had several  
very cold nights and before the tents came, I hardly slept for cold, but  
it produced no ill effect that I could see and last night I had a most  
comfortable rest in the tent.

I hear Col. Lee is still at the Vet. I most earnestly hope he  
will soon take command. I see everyday and especially since we have  
been in active service that Col. Telford is not a real, active, wide-  
awake man, nor a man of self reliance and force. Of course he is per-  
sonally brave, but he does not keep up the Officers and the Regiment to  
the mark. The Officers do not respect him much. (This of course is  
private). Col. Lee has a will of his own and will put things through.



Col. Kelley, for instance lies a bed till one o'clock and many of the Company Officers do so too, and in many other small things the Colonel sets the example of sloth and delay in business. Col. See has a soldier's spirit, and plenty of energy, and a certain impatience of delaying and loquacious.

Moreover, we are under Anna's eye, and he is every inch a soldier. He looks something like Mr. Joseph Willard (Senior) and is a perfectly cool man. I feel perfectly sure under him, and he likes our Regiment, and always has his Headquarters close to us. I shall write often and let you know of any movements I see.

Did the boys ever get to the family of Private Murphy of my Company? Please let me know. I sent the directions. Give him love to them all. Do not get uselessly anxious. At present we are as safe and comfortable here as you are at home. Friend and Capt. Shepard send regards. Good bye. must go to Battalion Drill.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

P.S. I have sent a letter from Henry Buchmeyer to his family, enclosed to you.

H. R.



Camp 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment before Yorktown  
Va. April 19<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

You see by my date that we have moved our Camp nearer the Rebel works. We are now about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from them, and the guns are planted in front of us, and protected by a Division relieved daily. Yesterday we did this duty and were close to the enemy and firing most of the day and night. I wrote you a long account of our skirmish, and now find that what I called a Rebel fort, was really a part of their great works. It is flat marshy land here, and covered with dense pine woods, with occasional open spots - it is nearly impossible to form a clear idea of the enemy's position. You remember that I told you in the letter I referred to that the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment formed in an open place and sent forward skirmishers.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday.

My dear John.

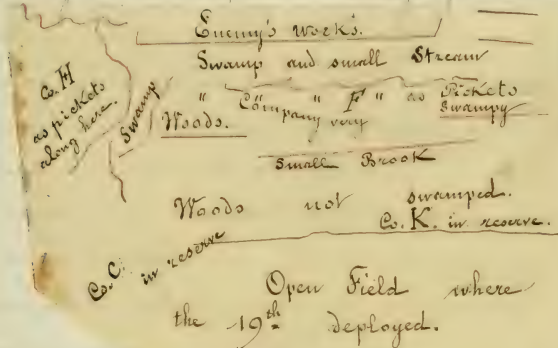
I was obliged to leave off very suddenly, so you see, and have only now been able to continue. I will take it up where I left off.

In the open place where I said the 19<sup>th</sup> formed we went, and our Company was stationed on the edge of the woods as a reserve to Company F. which was put out as pickets on the edge of the swamp. Company G





was left with the Colonel at the road, and here also was a section of Artillery and some sharpshooters. I will give you another little map.



Sharpshooters' 12 lb. Howitzers  
Camp  
Co. 1 & Col. P. Goat  
12 lb. Howitzers

Of course this is very rough. The field is much wider from the road to the woods than I have drawn it, and it extends much farther to the left. When the 19th deployed the day of the Skirmish, they went very much to the left and engaged a part of the fort which does not appear on my map.

During the night that we were on picket, we were not called upon, but Capt. Cabot's men kept up a very brisk firing with the Rebels. During the day one man of Herbert's Company was shot in the breast. His Company (H) was on a bluff, which rather overlooks the enemy, and they have some sharpshooters stationed on this part. The musicians and stretchers for the wounded were left with me, and



down to the point named. Still there was no real attack in spite of  
Cabot's firing, and we were relieved and returned to Camp next day  
all safe. On Sunday at noon we were all suddenly turned out under  
arms. I had charge of the Company, as the Captain was Officer of  
the day, and while I was in the tent I heard some one say the Regi-  
ment was falling in. I ran out and saw the whole Brigade forming,  
and I then gave the order for Company K to fall in. Soon General  
Dummer and Loma rode off to the front. We fell in and the whole  
Brigade marched to the front and formed in line of battle on the road  
opposite the open field I have so often spoken of. Everybody expected  
we were to fight, for there were Regiments drawn up as far as one  
could see, but after waiting under arms till nearly sundown, we retur-  
ned and found it was all a false alarm. Another alarm in the night  
called us all up. We were fast asleep in our tents, when I was awakened  
by the Captain. The Camp was perfectly still but there was a constant  
and heavy firing of musketry towards the front. Musketry at this dis-  
tance (about 1/2 mile) sounds something like heavy wagons passing over  
a bridge. In a few moments orders came to fall in and put out lights,  
and in a very short time Company K was standing at ordered arms, ready  
for anything. However, after waiting till about One O'clock, we were  
dismissed and ordered to "hold ourselves in readiness" during the rest of the  
night. As usual the firing was only a false alarm of the pickets  
and reserves.

Yesterday



it became our turn to go again on picket and we went in spite of a heavy rain storm which turned our camp into a ditch and the roads into rivers. You can hardly imagine a worse country than this. It is all covered with dense woods, principally large pitch pine and is almost perfectly flat. Half of it is swamp, and you can get water anywhere by digging 2 feet down. Of course there are a few slight elevations.

This time Company K. was in the extreme advance, and occupied a sort of bluff where in my map I have said that Company H. was stationed. However, we kept well behind trees, and nobody was hit, although the balls often whistled quite near us. In one place where 2 of our men were, we had a quite good view of the Fort. I saw a brass gun and several men. The Rebels have a rifle pit and some sharpshooters here, and both of my men at this point had the trees standing behind which they were. Toward evening, we were obliged to extend the line of our Company much farther to the left to unite with Company C. Just as it got quite dark, we received the countersign, with orders to pass it along to the left. I told the Captain I would take it along to Company C, and started following up our pickets. They were placed behind trees and stumps, about 150 feet apart but it was very cloudy and soon began to rain tremendously and the darkness in these deep woods was extreme. At night the Rebels show lights to decoy our men to fire, thinking they may know where and how many we are, and may fire volleys at random toward us. We were therefore ordered not to fire unless attacked.



I found the very greatest difficulty in getting from one post to another and frequently ran right against a line of troops. At last however I got to Company 2, gave the counterorder and started to return. It was now darker than ever and raining very heavily. I got alone to one last post but one, and then the picket told me it would be much easier for me to go back a few steps to a road which had been cut in the rear of the post and which ran right by the post where Capt. Shepard and I were to be. This I attempted to do, but did not succeed, for I could not tell at all when I got to the road. I attempted then to return to the post I had just left, but was unable to find it. I could not of course shout, as this was close to the enemy, and I stood a good chance of a couple of shots from them had I thus shown where we were posted. I therefore pushed on in the direction I thought our men were posted, frequently stopping and listening, and giving low whistles &c. but could get no reply. At last I determined to stop, and wait till I could see something by which to direct my way. I halted at the foot of a tall tree, and after feeling about discovered a stump on which I sat and waited for the rain to cease. After some time it stopped raining, and I saw a star or two. As I was quite tired and wet I fell into a doze. I was awakened by two shots, as it seemed to me in front of me. I then thought that perhaps I had got between the enemy and my pickets. While sitting here leaning against the tree I fell asleep, and when I awoke the stars were shining and all was clear. I got up and before long saw in my





opening of the branches the Dipper, and then the North Star. This gave me  
my direction, and I could then explain the shot I had heard no coming from  
our left. I found I had got quite turned round. Although it was still  
very dark near the ground in the shade of the trees, it was starlight  
and much lighter than when it rained. I determined to proceed cau-  
tiously in an easterly direction, and thus hoped to strike our pickets or  
reserve. It was now still, and I could hear a long distance. Before  
I had got far I heard a man cough. I coughed in reply and advanced  
and heard distinctly the twigs breaking under somebody's feet. I  
then said in a moderate voice "Company K," feeling sure it was one  
of our men. He replied, I advanced, and in a few moments came upon  
Sergeant Farnace of my Company who conducted me to the Captain,  
only a few steps off, in the very place from which I had started. The  
Captain and I were to have staid here with a reserve of 10 men, a  
little in rear of our line of pickets. The Captain was delighted to  
see me, for he had sent down to Company C. soon after it cleared  
off, and learnt that I had left them to return long before. I got  
back at about 2 O'clock. Our pickets are allowed no fires  
it was very uncomfortable for all till the sun rose and dried our  
clothes and warmed us. We were relieved very late, and did not get  
back to Camp till noon to-day. We had no alarms. The Rebels were  
at work at their forts all night, as usual, probably repairing the damage  
we do by shells &c. in the daytime. There is Artillery firing all day



long but only at intervals. I really do not see what progress we are making here, nor why we do not do more. We have several batteries, to be sure but there is no appearance of activity anywhere. Of course we know nothing of Genl. Mc. Clellan's plans, but the opinion is gaining ground that we are only to hold them in check here while Burnside and Mc. Lowell attack their rear. This picketing is bad work and not very interesting or glorious, and I think bad for the men to lie out and wait for shots at each other, as if they were hunting deer. Besides, this swampy hole will be very uncomfortable and sickly soon, and already on a fine day the heat is oppressive, and our linen shirtsleeves the most comfortable rig. We have now what are called "Shelter tents", which are little better than nothing. I am thankful to say however, that the Officers are to have their wall tents to-day. We can be very comfortable then. I am perfectly well, and at present the Regiment is healthy, but the Doctor says we shall not be long. I have received letter from you dated April 11<sup>th</sup> Mc. Clellan's 12<sup>th</sup> and Father's 15<sup>th</sup>, for all which greatly obliged. I have received no letters since but 3 papers. I shall write as often as I can and hope to have something more of interest another time. I hear it reported that we shall soon move to the rear, and be relieved in this picket duty by another Division. We are the first Brigade of our Division. I can hear nothing of the other parts of our line, and for what I know operations are being carried on vigorously at some other place, but we all trust to Mc. Clellan, and know that whenever he orders



us to advance there will be some way of advancing. Mr. Henry  
Edwards is here now and looks perfectly well, and was very pleasant.  
He is on Government business. My Officers are much displeased that  
Governor Andrew should have filled the 2 vacancies in the Regiment  
by promoting 2 sergeants and this without any recommendation from Edward  
Jeffrey, in the regular and usual manner. The Commissions how-  
ever are not yet given, I believe. I hear nothing about Col. Lee.  
Love to all. Do not forget to write often.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp before Yorktown, Va.  
April 28<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

Many happy returns of your birthday. I do not forget it here. Probably before your next birthday this great question will be settled, and people will speak of the Siege of Yorktown as they now do of Sebastopol. This morning I have come home from another day's picket. We were on the advanced post, where Capt. Bartlett was wounded, and as the Captain was ill I had charge of the Company. So my duty was arduous, and I feel a little dizzy this morning. With all this business about the siege. The Rebels work all night on their fortifications, and from my station last night I could hear distinctly the chopping of wood and the voices of the men. I could hear them even whistling when at work. We are ordered not to fire at night unless attacked and so they go on unmolested. But I understand that the main operations are on one point where a wagon bridge has been thrown across the York River, and immense guns of 100 and 200 lbs. caliber have been mounted. From what I can learn I think that Gloucester Point will be occupied, and a position then taken which will enfilade their entire works. Then this immense battery I have spoken of will knock their earthworks opposite our right into a cocked hat, and the road for the Infantry will be open. This is my opinion of McClellan's plans.





as far as I can learn. I have no news to tell you, and am perfectly well. Henry desires his thanks to you, and to Mr. Michborn through you. He does not know what box you refer to. He wishes to know if any money was used by Mr. Michborn for the benefit of Henry's family over and above the amount contained in the letter if any were contained in the letter. He also wishes to know what could be the freight and duty on a small box sent to Haiti?

Love to all. No news. Just heard report of the Capture of New-Orleans. Hope it is true.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp Winfield Scott, near Yorktown, Va.  
May 1<sup>st</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

You see I now date my letters from Camp Winfield Scott. This is the regular authorized name now for the camp of the entire army before Yorktown.

I have been paid off up to March 1<sup>st</sup> 1862 \$333.<sup>05</sup> quite a pile of money for my first earnings. I am now due \$210.- more up to this date. We shall probably be paid this before long. I have sent home to Father through Capt. Macy, Agent for Mr. Bloom and the Mayor of Boston \$280.-, and requested him to reimburse himself for the amounts advanced to me in all \$200.- and to hand the remaining \$21.- to you. I know you have no account of my expenses for shoes, line &c. &c. written for by me while at Camp Boston. I never made a list of the things nor prices but I beg you to sum up the whole and pay for it out of the \$21.- I suppose these expenses did not exceed \$40.- but I really have quite forgotten and I beg you to forward to me a list if convenient. Then I wish you to take from the remainder \$5.- and expend the same in a birthday present for yourself, as you see fit, and let me know afterwards what your choice may be. This leaves \$26.- in your hands, and with this I have requested Father to buy for me a silver hunter watch. I am in need of a watch



to keep good time, and which has not a crystal to be broken. I do not  
care to spend a cent for beauty, and only desire a useful watch. I  
think \$25. the maximum price such a watch will cost. No objection  
to a large one. Perhaps an American one will do very well. If  
I have proved one any money advanced by Father, or have not allowed  
enough for your list of expenses, please let me know and I will send  
the money immediately. I would like to make all square behind me  
on this paying, and I think the \$280. will be sufficient, but it may  
not be.

It has occurred to me that perhaps the Harvard Boat Club  
will now need their house where our boat is stored. You had better  
write to Mr. Bunnay, and ask him if he wishes you to remove the boat.  
The only neede painting to be did for any use. Perhaps you will  
want her at Swaneycott, but if you do not care much about it, I  
would advise selling her provided you can get \$35.- for her, complete  
with oars, oarlocks &c. &c. Very likely, Mr. Andrews would like her.  
If you want to sell her, by all means ask Mr. Bunnay to tell Tim  
Ball in Cambridge. He is a boating man in Cambridge and  
would sell her if anybody would.

A long time now Henry Lefferts asked me what he should do  
with my share of the Gracie Boat Money, about \$6.- I think pay  
it to him and you can credit it to Father, as it is his, not mine. I have  
followed me also due me from E. B. Porter for coal. This also



is Father's. Jeffries asked me if I wanted to give the boat money to the A.D.? I should be happy to do so were it mine. In the way Kilton asked me about the A.D. and said he would give them \$10.- if they needed it. I should be happy to aid \$5.- or \$10.- if it is needed. Now is the glorious old fraternity? Do they need money? Better not Jeffries or Crumell.

In future all letters to us to be directed as of old merely "Washington D. C."

We have warmer weather now, but a good deal of rain.

Do not save the boat on my account, but act as you see fit. No news. Constant firing night and day, but little damage.

Frank Duntlett, I hear, is doing finely. We are dreadfully in need of him or the Colonel.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

I have received yours of 21<sup>st</sup> on the 25<sup>th</sup>.





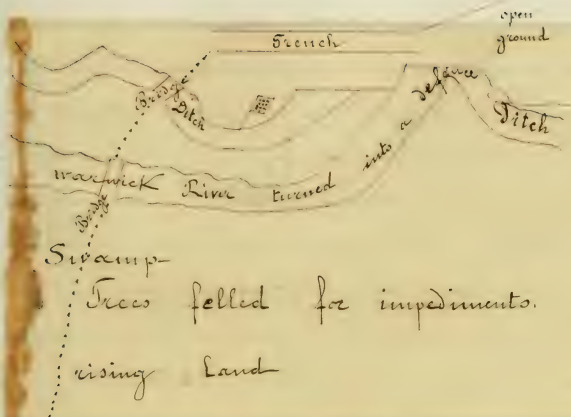
Camp near West Point York River, Va.  
May 8<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I wrote a letter to Father yesterday and despatched it this morning, and gave a short account of what we have seen and done.

Our Regiment entered the works before Yorktown at about 12 before 3 on Sunday morning. Just as we mounted the works, after wading the swamp I looked behind me, and it was a splendid sight to see the great glittering columns pouring out of the woods in all directions moving on the forts. The horse Artillery galloped forward and took up position so as to command the woods in rear of the works in case the enemy should attempt to drive out our advanced Regiments. It was hot, clear, sunny morning. As Company I was away on the outer pickets, our Company was the first Company in, and as Capt. Shepard had remained in Camp as Officer of the day, I had the pleasure of commanding. When we advanced, we of course were not sure that we should not have to attack and drive off some small body of the enemy. The Colonel went first in. The forts are very extensive, and from where we were it was quite impossible to form an idea of their entire works. They were built of earth and in a regular manner, where we entered was a circular front. As near as I could see this would represent the front.





The dotted line shows our course. In the interior ditch the men who served the guns evidently lived and had built shanties. The top of the works was piled up with sand bags, and pieces of our shells were scattered round quite thickly. As far as I could see, in this first line, the cannon used were only field pieces.

As to our having taken the place at first by assault, I hardly think it could have been done. The ditches would have had to be bridged under a terrible fire, and the assaulting party would have been entirely broken up by the swamp and the fallen trees, arranged over a space of one or 200 feet wide, between the two ditches. From the Rebel forts our new works looked splendid, and much more regular and workmanlike than theirs. I forgot to say that our flag was probably the first one raised over the Rebel forts, and in the position I have shown in my plan.



Soon after we had occupied this part of the works, other Regiments  
came up, and we were moved in, and stacked arms and rested on a large  
parade ground inside. There were long rows of barracks all round, com-  
=fortably built of logs, and one or 2 old houses originally no doubt the  
farm houses, as the Rebel works were built on a place over cultivated land.  
These buildings were all in ruins and evidently not very lately occupied.  
Our shells had made this part very dangerous to live in. A great many  
old chairs, tin pots, papers and a few books were scattered about.  
I picked up a copy of 'Bunyan's Holy war', the blank leaves written  
over with blasphemous assertions of Northern cowardice and of the  
future success of the Confederate Cause. I have this, and a number of  
very interesting 'seal' letters and some Southern postage stamps &c. Some  
letters picked up refer to Magruder's drunkenness, and some abuse  
Davis. I have also a general order of Magruder's. At about noon  
we marched back to our old camp and were ordered to be ready for mar-  
=ching as soon as possible. Before we left, large bodies of horse  
Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry had passed us and gone on, no doubt  
in pursuit. We made all ready at camp, but no marching orders came,  
and we spent Sunday night in the old place. It rained hard in the night,  
and all day Monday, but on Monday morning we fell in and marched to  
the right, and camped near the York River, about 2 mile from Yorktown.  
The land here is rather hilly and very pretty, grass green and trees in  
flower. We got very wet but pitched shelter tents here and built fires. I



Long, I to say that when we marched back from the Rebel works, we found the other Divisions packed <sup>and</sup> ~~up~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> roads for a start, horses harnessed and Artillery men in their places. The Bands which have been silent for two weeks had begun again and were getting rid of their joyful feelings by sounding the well known airs of "Militia Columbian" and "Globe" in their loudest strains. Far down the Columns, you could hear the rolling of drums and the rumbling of Cannon and waggon. Altogether a very different scene from that we passed in our silent march to our picket station only the day before. There was one thing the Rebels did before leaving, worthy of barbarians only. They left percussion Shells slightly buried in the earth inside their works, on the roads and in the fields. A person treading on one would cause it to explode. Several of our men were killed and wounded thus, and guards were stationed where one these were found. I heard several explode, 2 of which wounded men. When it was found that this had been done, the Rebel prisoners taken were sent forward and obliged to point out and pick up these shells. As this burying shells could not in the least retard a large Army and could not benefit the Enemy in the least I think it was brutal and inhuman to do that which could only inflict injury on an enemy uselessly. Well, at 6 o'clock on Monday evening we were ordered to fall in and marched off to York town. It had just settled down into a regular steady rain. We had only 12 miles to march, and it took us 11 hours! The time until 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning was spent on the road. It may seem incredible that at 6 o'clock





men should thus miserably be exposed for a whole night to a pouring cold rain and deep in mud, but such is the fact, and I really think I never felt so tired and exhausted and generally disgusted. The three roads from the Centre right and left of the Peninsula meet just before York town and along these roads the brooks were pouring in one steady stream the whole time. We first halted to let the right hand road empty itself, and we waded till it grew dark and until 10 o'clock, while the troops passed on. We then would march 5 minutes and halt 2 hours, and so on again. At last it ceased raining and at break of day we halted on a rather dry place, and men and Officers sank down, and in a few moments I fell asleep and awoke at broad daylight, wet and awfully cold. We were just on the edge of the ditch of a tremendous Rebel fortification, on which the great guns yet stood. This fort is altogether the largest and finest I have yet seen, and really is quite up to any description of the Redoubt or Malaroff I ever read. Inside this fort is York town, i.e. about 10 respectable old houses. You would hardly know that the little group of houses was the town, and would suppose at first that these were the houses built for the Officers of the fort, not the town for the defence of which these great forts were built. We were allowed to go into the fort, and found the barracks inside quite comfortable and quantities of old chairs tables &c. &c. A large number of wagons, wheelbarrows, spears &c. were lying about, and there was an old Quinby marked "Princeton". One man even had immense faces lighted



and cooked breakfast. The sun was without a cloud, and in an hour's time everybody was luxuriating in warmth and comfort. I dried my socks &c. and had a good cup of coffee and soon felt all right. At about 8 O'clock we marched down to the wharves where the river was perfectly crowded with transports and men of war. Our Regiment was embarked in the splendid river Steamer "C. Vanderbilt" and the 1<sup>st</sup> Mass. followed us on board. Our Company and Company I marched into the "Indus" cabin and stacked arms in two long rows. Here each Officer and most of the men had a berth to himself. Just before our Regiment went on board I was detailed to attend to the getting the provisions on board and I was thus so busy as I could be till 3 O'clock when the Steamer sailed. As I had been up all the last night, and on picket the night before, I was awfully sleepy, and immediately turned in and slept away, and was awakened for supper at 6 O'clock, when the boat was lying off the wharf of West Point, 30 or 40 miles up the York river. I of course did not see any fine scenery if there was any.

I left Henry C. Burchmeyer at our old camp. He has been troubled with a lame back and colds for ever so long, and has not been able to do his full work, and when I found we were to march and he was quite unable to carry anything and keep up, I gave him leave of absence and let him go back and get well, and he is to let me know by letter how he is, and probably when he is well.

6



I do not think he is very ill, but he has not got any more <sup>of</sup> spirit, and cannot put things through and stand all sorts of privations. When in good health he did very well, and I liked him very much, but since we have begun to march, I have seen his great lack of spirit, and that he is not a "man of many resources" by any means. He is a man who would make a most excellent servant for Genl W<sup>m</sup> Dopes, but a very poor one for a soldier in the middle of an active campaign. For the present I have got a private from my company named "Walker", one of the best men in the world, and infinitely more active and enterprising than Henry, but of course not so quiet and gentlemanly nor so good a cook. I should like to have Walker for a march and Henry for a camp always.

Well, I left off my narrative where we had just got to West Point. We soon steamed a little farther up the river called "Cumtugy" on my map, and stopped for the night opposite to an immense open flat field on our left where a great many troops had already landed, and the river was crowded with steamers and barges and several black looking gunboats. The next morning (yesterday) we landed at about 6 o'clock A.M. in great barges the Artillery being towed in on rafts. Altogether it was exactly like what you read about at the disembarkation of Armines. We formed upon the shore and found ourselves about in the centre of the plain, close to the river, and several small houses near us. Troops were encamped in all directions, and our Division



was just landing. We staid long enough to get some breakfast, and were then ordered into line without knapsacks, as some scattering firing had begun on the edges of the field where the woods began. This was about 8 o'clock. Infantry and Artillery were rapidly thrown forward, and we were marched and drawn up in line of battle about in the centre of the field or rather nearer the river. Soon the plan of our attack was seen for the troops were formed along the edges of the woods, and Artillery a little more behind. We were now marched to the left and drawn up in line of battle facing the woods, our left resting on the river. Our troops had now entered the woods all round, and the firing was getting to be very heavy. The Colonel walked along the line and told the men to keep cool, fire low &c. A battery was now drawn up behind us, we masking it. Soon the firing in front burst out volley after volley and quite near. We then changed front to the rear on 8<sup>th</sup> Company, and of course unmasked the battery and found our rear on the river, and left toward the woods. We were marched a short distance to the rear and were then close to the river. Soon the musketry in front diminished, and for several hours a drapping fire was kept up. Till this time firing was kept up on the farther part of the field, and our batteries on the edge of the woods kept up a steady fire for a long time, which was quite fierce some time after the firing in front of us had ceased. Col. Lee explained to me the military evolutions which were very interesting indeed, and of which we had a splendid view, for we could





see the whole of our force, perhaps 20,000 at first. Col. See told me that having engaged the enemy all round, it was determined to attack principally on our right, and we could see the Regiments and Batteries rapidly moving into the woods there. Altogether it was very much as I had supposed. Col. See told me we were merely getting and holding our position, and that this was not to be a general battle. By and by most of our troops had entered the woods, or were standing on the edge and the firing had almost ceased. The wounded had been brought in for some time, but I have that our entire loss did not exceed 100 men. It seems very few for so much firing. Part of the battery we were supporting had been sent to the right, and we were resting on our arms, when suddenly a Rebel battery from the woods on our extreme left opened and threw shell quite near to us and just short of the transports in the river. Every shot came nearer, and we heard them whistle by. One struck close to the Vanderbilt, and threw the water all over her. But their danger was short for 2 gunboats immediately opened and another coming up the river got into position and opened fire. The Vicmondaw shot from these boats sailed right by us and fell and burst right over the Rebels. Our guns only fired once for the General stopped them after the 1<sup>st</sup> fire, lest our position should be made known and fired on. The gunboats silenced the Rebels in about 10 minutes. It was a fine sight. The rest of the day there was no firing except a few shells thrown by us at a house where were some Rebels seen. Toward night we moved toward the center.



of the field and bivouacked.

To-day there has been no fighting. Have just heard of the evacuation of Lookout. Det of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry has just come through from Mc. Clellan. We beat the Rebels yesterday. They are to make their long promised "stand" at a little river back here about 20 miles.

To-day I have had a fine swim in the river. It is like summer here, and very pleasant. Have received no letters except from Col. Lee since I left our old camp. I am perfectly well. I have seen a great deal, which perhaps I can tell you about some day. The Rebellion seems about put down but there may be a fight here yet. Our dead brought in to-day are stabbed with many bayonet thrusts, and I hear some have had hair and clothes cut off for trophies by these savages. This and the Torpedoes left at Look'town have terribly exasperated our men, and if we get at them I do not think they can hope for much mercy, and I think they deserve little. Have been here all day. It is now 8 P.M. Here we march to-morrow at 5 A.M. Love to all. Shall try to write again soon.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

P.S. You all seem to think a great deal of my adventure in the woods. I suppose I unintentionally exaggerated it. It was not at all dangerous, and I wonder you thought it was. The 2<sup>d</sup> line of Rebel works were about 2 miles from Look'town, the 3<sup>d</sup> merely the fort enclosing the town.  
H. R.



On picket about 3 miles above West  
Point Va. on the Pamunkey River  
May 9<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John

I wrote you a tremendous letter day before yesterday, giving an account of my movements &c. up to date of letter. Nothing has since happened, except the advance of our Brigade about 3 miles along the bank of the river. We marched up yesterday, and to-day are put out on picket, although there are pickets beyond us, and the Cavalry to-day could not find an enemy anywhere within 5 miles. Our gunboats are pushing up the river and shelling the woods. Mr. Bellard arrived yesterday. He never moves without being received by tremendous cheers, and yesterday I traced his course a mile off in this way. Near our Camp on the open field I spoke of, the dead were buried yesterday. I have been bayoneted several times, and I have one hair his throat cut by these savages. 15 privates, 2 Captains and 2 Lieutenants of the 31<sup>st</sup> New York were put into one great grave, close to us. It was a solemn and sad sight. I am sorry to say some of the New York Regiments behaved badly on Wednesday. Col. Lee told me so. Col. Lee told me he expected we would be ordered forward every moment. I hear that it is very unusual to get such a good sight of real military movements. I suppose we shall advance as fast as transportation and provisions



sion can be brought up. It is impossible to say whether or not we shall have a great battle here, but I think there is little chance of it. There is free communication between us and the Army which marched up the Chimborazo from Fort Town.

Well, I write principally to you to ask you to get some Clothes &c. for me, suitable for hot weather. It is very hot here now.

I wish you would call on Martin Van Arsdon<sup>d</sup> and order for me a pair of light blue Officer's pants and a regulation Officer's coat, both of the thinnest cloth. They must be strong, however and therefore let them be of the finest cloth. Of course I do not wish an unusually dear suit but they must be thin and must be strong, or I do not want them, and am willing to pay for a good quality of cloth. Let the holes for straps be made, but do not use straps. The measure for my last pants were very good. You know what trouble I had with my dress coat. As the new one is to be very thin, and worn without a vest, I think the old measure will do, only let it come up a little higher in the neck. Let there be no stuffing whatever, but let it be as cool a coat as possible. Of course so thin a coat must be smaller in the waist than the measure. Then I want also a flannel shirt, of the very thinnest material, and large enough. Any color will do. Also 2 pairs of my linen drawers 2 cakes of good soap, one moderate sized sponge with water proof bag, and (if possible) a white havelock to go over my Cap. If however you can get a regulation Sicut mart's felt hat, of very





light "matériel". I would like it with a nice bangle and "D" complete in every way. In case any regulation straw-hat is adopted and you can get me one, send that. Remember my head is a little smaller than yours. I am in the very greatest need of these things and would be very much obliged if you would order the clothes immediately and send them on without any delay by Adams Express, directed as best you can to me wherever I may be. I want you to put them in a good waterproof valise or carpet bag, large enough to contain fully as much as your valise. I should rather prefer a bag, but let there be a wide bottom, and a good lock, and let it be made of rubber or glazed leather and strong, and distinctly marked: "H. Ropes, 2<sup>d</sup> Regt. Mass. Vol." I should have written long ago for these things, but it has grown hot very rapidly of late, and besides I did not care to order new things till Lockton had been taken. I need them very much now, and you are the only person who can get them, and I hope you are not so busy that you will be troubled by attending to it. Besides, I want a flask of glass or metal, to hold about a pint and strong and good. Should there be room, I would like you to buy and put in for me a bottle of good Portwine and one of Sherry. I have not yet got the box or my trunk, but I expect to no soon as we get to some settled place, which must be, I think in about a fortnight, when I expect these new things will come. Probably we shall spend the summer in the South, if all goes well, and I shall need cool things. Do not send more clothing than I ask for. If anything



more should be sent me, please do not let them put in Sugar, as I get  
excellent here. If possible, put a bottle of Lemon Syrup in my bag. Re-  
member that I shall probably receive the box and bag about the same time.  
It is delightful summer weather here, but insects are very troublesome  
in the woods. I have received no letters since those by the Colonel. The  
Colonel is a great man. He sees to everything himself. He is up at  
3 in the morning, and everybody now has to toe the mark. He goes  
round and cate the cations, and examines the arms, and looks out himself  
for the smallest things. Then he has the profoundest respect of every  
Officer and man in the Regiment. I never thought he was so active  
a man as I know he is now.

I think I have mentioned everything I want, and I assure you  
I do want the clothes very much. I have had a delightful swim in the  
Greek River, and this afternoon I bathed in the Pamunkey.

Love to all from

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment near New Kent, Va.  
May 20<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I think you must have all forgotten me at home for I have not received a letter for a long time, except the short note from you enclosing a letter to Henry. Henry is in Washington and getting better, and has written me so. I think he will soon return to me. I shall keep the letter for him.

We marched to this place on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> and expect to move on to-day or to-morrow. I hear that the Rebels have evacuated their position at Bottoms Bridge on the Chickahominy, and that a flag of truce has come proposing the surrender of Richmond. Also that the Galena is sunk and the Augatuck driven back on the James River. I do not know what to believe and hope the latter is untrue. Yesterday there was distant but very heavy firing in the direction of the James river.

I hope you received my letter about clothes and will send the bag. You say that the \$40. I sent will more than pay for the expenses on your list. I leave you \$3.- of it to Clara Ann, and ask her to purchase with it a present for Lizzie from me. Her birthday occurred on the 14<sup>th</sup> and she must excuse my not thinking to send it in time. Government now owe me \$25.- for my last 2 months, and when we get this I shall send enough home to pay for the clothes and considerations



besides. I hope you have thought about our boat as I requested, for the "Harvard" may really need the room.

We are encamped now in a very beautiful spot, about 1 1/2 miles from New Kent, which village we passed through. There are no grand houses, but pretty little cottages shaded by trees, and a very pleasant looking place. We are about 21 miles from White Plains Landing. I hear that my box is there, and I hope to get it very soon now. I have had so much to write to you about that I forgot to mention something that I found out about a month ago, and which, by the way you had better keep to yourself. I discovered that some time ago Col. Palfrey recommended to the Governor Messrs. Meeson and myself for promotion for 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants. This he did entirely without my knowledge, and indeed he never once alluded to the subject to me. Mr. Cowan, Murphy heard of it and was very angry, so he and Meeson and Müller are our Seniors in rank. Murphy indignantly complained to Col. Palfrey - and even tried to resign &c. and spoke publicly of the matter, and even acted in a very foolish manner, but I never heard of it till afterward. However, you probably know that Col. Palfrey is not one of Governor Andrew's favorites, and his recommendation was disregarded and Meeson and Müller were promoted. I never gave the matter a thought, and do not really care in the least for promotion and certainly would not have taken a commission over my superiors but I certainly am glad that Colonel Palfrey has a good opinion of me. As to the promotion,





and also Holmes; they are made in the regular way, but unquestionably all 3 men are miserable Officers and do not deserve a higher post.

It has created a good deal of feeling in the Regiment that the Governor has promoted 2 Sergeants, without consulting Col. & Officers. The Officers have felt very indignant indeed. You have often asked about Lowell and Patten. Lowell is a much tougher man than I had supposed. I like him very much and we are excellent friends. He is really a much better Officer than I had supposed, and I find my opinion of him is constantly rising. Patten is good natured, but lacks judgment and tact. He is a very indifferent Officer. The more I see of Fremdell, the more I dislike him. He is only a Gentleman on particular occasions, and when he chooses, and has a good deal of the devil in him. He is a very gross coarse man. However he is a good Officer and does his duty without any shirking or delay. There is no mistake about that. Abbott is the best Officer and the finest man in the Regiment, only the Colonel excepted, and he is not up to Abbott in military matters. Abbott is a great Company Officer. Colonel of course would make the best General, but he has forgotten a great deal of little things and drill that Abbott is always perfect in. I respect and admire Abbott more and more. There is not a pluckier man anywhere, and he makes none of that swagger, and puts on none of the prize fighter, no Fremdell does.

I hope to get letters soon. Love to all. Tell me how business



and the buildings are. Be careful how you repeat some parts of this letter. I am delighted that you have so much business.

Your affectionate brother,  
Henry.

Postscript.

1.30 P.M.

Dear John.

I open this envelope to acknowledge the receipt just now of yours of May 1<sup>st</sup> and of Emma's Lizzie's and Mother's of same date. Please thank them all and also Sister Anna for the latter part of Lizzie's letter. I was very kind of her when she is so ill. I shall try to answer all very soon. Henry has this morning returned well. He got your letter and the \$2.00 in Washington but did not receive my letter to him. You had better see to it that Moll does not hurt the boat or let it. It will do it good to be used and especially to be printed. I am glad the M. C. E. goes on well. I do not care to make any present of money to the A. Δ. Φ unless they are really in need. I seem to be entirely forgotten by my old college friends. They never write now. As to publishing my letter I was indeed amazed. I really do not feel that what I wrote hurriedly and carelessly to you was fit for publication, but if you only wanted



the facts, and could arrange the orthography yourself, and it was of any good to establish a fact, I do not object.

As to the Guiborato doing much, it is a mistake. They only fired about a dozen shots. The fear of them however might have kept the enemy back. As to Capt. Beckwith, all I can say is that I understood that Thorpe gave him the money to keep, without any particular condition and as a favor to him (Thorpe), and Beckwith went off on a spree and spent the money. Beckwith, however, is a man of some honor and will no doubt pay. As to Thorpe's wife I understand he shamefully abandoned her long ago, and she has gone to live with her friends down East. I hope you will not get mixed up too much against Capt. Beckwith, for he was once a member, though an unworthy one, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, and besides I knew him here. I shall write soon again. I feel very sorry to hear of Dr. Brown's death. I always thought a great deal of him. He was such a kind, excellent man.

Affectionately  
J<sup>r</sup> Henry R.



Camp 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, near Ballou's  
Bridge, Va. May 24<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I enclose a letter for Mary Ann giving an account of  
our march to this camp, only a short distance from our previous camp.  
I acknowledged your last in the Postscript of my last.

Of course in case of a battle &c., or on many occasions I  
could imagine, where the safety of friend &c. was concerned, and even to  
establish a point which it might be important to maintain, I would not object  
to your allowing parts of my letters to be published in the papers. yet, as a  
rule, I should be very sorry to have you do so, and I would rather not  
have seen the letter which I wrote about West Point in print. I hope  
in future that you will only publish in case of great necessity. I want to  
write freely to you all, and not to feel that I may be writing to a paper. Be-  
sides I hate any kind of notoriety, and even in such a little thing there  
are some questions asked and it is spoken of.

You say nothing about the clothes and bag I wrote about. I sup-  
=pose you have not received the letter. Mary has returned well  
and in good spirits. There is no more Mary Lee here. Did you  
go to our benefit at the M. S. C.? Lowell has had a bill sent to  
him, so I see it was a fine affair. We had a tremendous 'soothing march'  
yesterday, through woods & swamps, and over ferns. Some spots here are





very fertile indeed, and I have even seen thousands there. The inhabitants  
at a few houses have remained and were civil enough. It is evening  
now, and I have no news about starting. I am on guard and a bit wear-  
y in playing the Miserere you like so well.

Phil. Mason was at Williamsburg, and had a very narrow escape  
and was very much exposed. Sturgis was in a part of the fight: To-day  
it has rained here. Henry got into some difficulty with a Sergeant  
yesterday. The latter called him a damned nigger &c. without any cause,  
and of course he got angry.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment May 30<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

Thank you for yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> and for the trouble you must have been at to get the clothes &c. You have not yet told me whether the \$23. has been received, and whether my old debts have been paid up and whether there was enough money for all. For the clothes &c. I expect to send \$100. from my next pay, now due since May 1<sup>st</sup>. I do not remember sending for any undershirts, or for but one pair of drawers, but you say there are 2 of each in the valise. Father speaks of my trunk. I hope it is surely a good sized valise. Henry hopes you have sent his cigars. Please tell me if a box came for Henry, and if so, what it contained. He says one of his letters mentions that his friends have sent to him a barrel of sweet potatoes, 1/2 of which were for Mr. Nickerson, and the other 1/2 for him. He desires to present his half of the barrel to Father if they should come. I have no doubt they would be excellent.

I am very glad you have sent some Lemons and Syrup. One stands in great need of acid food and drink in this hot country. I have read Col. Sedgwick's letter in the "Obtative" with great pleasure. Very much obliged for the books you have sent. Can you send me the "Elastic" for June by mail?

I have sent to you by an friend Mr. Withins (who has long been connected with this Regiment and now returns home expecting a commission) a package containing a scarf I have no further use for a package of letters &c.



for Mary Ann to put in my box and a package of letters &c. I picked  
up in the deserted Rebel works below Fort Sum. Also two \$2.00 rebel  
bills bought for 5 cents each by Henry Burk Meyer and sold at  
that price for relics. One he sends to you and the other he gave to me.  
These things and others I may send home. I do not intend always  
to make one absolutely to you for in case I should return I might want  
to keep them myself.

I am very glad to hear of Mr. Lowe's engagement. Please to  
present my congratulations and kindest regards to him. I have sent a  
letter to Frank through Father.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

12 O'clock M.

Heavy cannonade toward the city. No orders yet.



Picket 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment near Fries Oaks  
Station, Va. June 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 1862.

My dear John.

After the exciting events of the past week, and the constant alarms and attacks of the enemy I find a time of leisure and sit down to write to you as particular an account of this great battle, or series of battles as I can, and if possible, to give you a truer idea of matters than I think you are likely to obtain from the newspapers. I have seen the New-York Herald, and the account in the Baltimore Clipper taken from the New-York Times, both of which are incorrect and the latter shamefully untrue. The amount of the matter is that General New-York and Pennsylvania troops were utterly defeated and dispersed on Saturday in about one hour: that his position was taken and the Centre of the Union well nigh pierced; and that Genl. Sumner, seeing the tremendous importance of the position on the South side of the Chickahominy, rushed his 10,000 men across with only 5 or 6 guns and engaged the overwhelming forces of the enemy, and by a desperate retreat won back almost the entire ground by Saturday night. Sumner has done a great thing. He dared to trust his whole command, without reserve, in one magnificent bayonet charge on the best troops of the enemy and thus he won back the position which if he had abandoned, would probably now be in the enemy's hands held by them between





the right and the left of Me. Clellan's army. He has dared to stake everything, when the tremendous importance of the point demanded it. This is in my opinion the greatest thing a General can do.

I have got a little excited on the matter because I see that the New-York papers want to salve over Cass's disgraceful rout and Sumner's splendid victory, and to make the battle of Sunday the important struggle. In one sense it was, but had not we cleared the way on Saturday night the troops who fought Sunday's battle never could have come up.

Before I go farther I will say that no Officer of the 2<sup>d</sup> is hurt, and that our entire loss to this date (2<sup>d</sup> A.M.) is 32 out of about 120 men who went into action. Well, I promised to give you a regular account. It began upon Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May we were in the camp where we had been a week or so, as quietly living as ever. I had had my hair cut and had shaved that morning, and was just putting up the razor when firing commenced in the direction of Richmond. It soon became very heavy, and approached rapidly nearer. There was very little shelling. In about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour it about stopped. After it began to decrease the order came to fall in. We have often fallen in on hearing firing by the pickets and often been marched toward the front on such occasions, and this seemed to be now about ours and I thought nothing of it. I did not even put on my marching boots but wore my Army shoes. I took my haversack with a little hard bread and a small amount of food, but only ordered Henry to get this ready, when I heard we were to march forward and I thought



we might spend the night somewhere. Of our Brigade the 10<sup>th</sup> were on picket and part of the Tammam, and so we were the eight Regiment and the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan the left of the Brigade. When we began to march the firing had entirely ceased. I do not really think the whole firing lasted 3/4 of an hour, and the only thing I thought strange was that it seemed to end at a point nearer to us than at which it began. We crossed the Chickahominy on the log bridge lately built by the Michigan wh<sup>ch</sup>. Beyond the bridge is a large flat meadow. The river runs through a wide swamp. The logs are laid at the beginning of the marshy land, and reach to the firm ground on the other side. When one is about in the middle there is a considerable stream of water very muddy, and apparently not deep. As we emerged from the woods which are on each side of the bridge we saw the meadow I have spoken of before us and a brass gun stuck in the mud and a wagon beyond. Our Artillery, the Rhode Island Battery was behind us, and of course was stuck at the head of the bridge until the first gun could be got out of the way. We marched round the north edge of the meadow, and then ascended quite a hill, and entered a very pretty open country with fine trees and fields. After marching for one or two miles we halted and loaded. This is not unusual, and I did not think then that the enemy was so near. It was an open field where we halted and here we left the Tammam as a picket guard perhaps to cover the retreat, in case one was made.



We pressed on, the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan some distance ahead and very soon firing was heard in front, and then we were hurried on at a very rapid pace. We waded right through a stream and got over the rest of the way very quickly, part of the time at 'double quick', although it was very muddy. I was soaked with mud and water half way to the knee, and very hot, for the day was warm. All this time the firing was growing hotter and hotter, and I then began to think that we were going in in earnest. Soon after we started from camp, Sumner rode by and said to someone something about 'a long step and a quick one' which remark was passed along down the line by the men, and we supposed we were to make a forced march. I enclose a rough map showing the various positions of the 2<sup>d</sup> in the battle. We came along the road marked A., at about 5.<sup>30</sup> P.M. and advanced double quick to the front. As we came out on the open field the sight was splendid indeed. Before us was the battery firing with the greatest rapidity, so also were the Infantry drawn up in line on each side. On the left fresh troops were just forming in line, and when we got about to the place marked A. we heard the balls whistling over us and crashing through the woods on our right. We advanced by the right flank and filed to the left, and rapidly formed on the right by files into line in the position B. As there was a slight ridge in front the balls principally went some distance over our heads, but I saw the shells bursting distinctly, especially near our battery. As soon as we formed we marched



forward to C. then by the left flank to D. and here the man first began to fall. We finally advanced straight to the front to H. and opened fire in line on the enemy in front. The Michigan <sup>7<sup>th</sup></sup> was on our left where the land was a very little lower. I have stated we made these changes of position but there was of course a terrific noise and smoke and confusion, and with the greatest difficulty we heard the various orders passed along, and before we got into our regular position <sup>we</sup> moved right and left and forward and decided up and back all with regularity in the general movement, but with considerable confusion in particulars on account of the tremendous noise and probably the excitement of many of the men. Therefore I do not say that our Regiment made exactly these moves, in exactly this order and way but only that this was the general series of movements which brought us from the rear to the left and front. After we got well into action at the front, and the men were firing as fast as they could. I looked at my watch and found it 4 of C. This was the only time I had an opportunity to look and from this I judge at the time the action commenced. The men were now falling every few moments with a cry or groan and were carried a little back, and thence to the Surgeons in the rear. A man named Lamelle of my Company just as it happened was directed on us as we came to the front, threw himself flat down with a sob of cry, as I thought frightened. I ordered him up of course and even hit him with my





swore for I thought he was frightened but instantly saw he was shot,  
and had him carried to the rear. He was hid in the breast. I did  
not hurt him in the least, but only took the only way to signify my  
command and a noise that made it extremely difficult for the men  
to be heard. The man who covered Linnally in the rear came fell  
almost at the same time. While we were still firing, the enemy  
descended from the road where they were posted, and attempted to take  
the battery by a flank. They got up about as far as the house, but were  
met by concentrated fire of Infantry and by grape and canister  
and were charged by the Infantry on the right of us.  
They fell back in confusion, and now old Sumner gave the order  
for the whole line to advance together. They did so at double quick  
charge beyond and with tremendous cheers. It was a great sight,  
dark with smoke and lit up with the fire of the guns, and the line  
of bayonets reached as far as you could see. We came over an awfully  
muddy place which completely winded us. We got to the road at the  
edge of the woods, A, but the enemy had fled, not waiting for the bayonet.  
We threw down the fence and were halted in the road and again  
opened fire into the woods of A. Then again came the order "Charge"  
and over the fence and into the woods we went. It was very dark  
and smoky, and as the enemy fled we were again halted and fired,  
and got into line. Then came the order to fall back which we did;  
halted, again fell back, formed in the road and marched by the left flank



to the position F1 on the edge of the field. The enemy had made a last effort here and were drawn up in a dark line. It was now almost dark. We fired one volley and then one the fence and at them with the bayonet. They gave way, and after running some distance into the field we halted and formed, and kept firing into the darkness for 10 minutes or so, when the order "cease firing" came down the line, and we rested on the field, and the battle was over and won. It was now dark. The firing had about ceased, and only a few shots were heard at intervals. We waited in silence in line and soon parties of men were sent out and a great many wounded Rebels were brought in and many not wounded came and gave themselves up as prisoners. We lay down with arms in hands for a few hours, only during the night. 2 Brigadier General Pettigrew of South Carolina, and a Lieut. Col. Bull, S.C. both wounded were brought in by our men. All the wounded lay in rear of our Regiment, all night on the wet ground, and in a rain storm, and I could hear them groaning. Some of the prisoners lay down flat and pretended to be dead, and our men brought them in. When they found themselves discovered they begged for their lives and were really convinced that we intended to murder them. The Colonel sent for me and ordered me to go with 2 men for a guard to Genl. Sumner, and to him five prisoners (2 wounded who had just come in and to ask for assistance for the wounded men. It was now very dark and I started and went very slowly along the road and then over the meadow to the house which had been under



Shanty

9 Mile Road

House

with eyes glazed and fixed  
from the road and parade.  
the wounds had been to G

Woods.

Road. Fences on each side.

Enemy's

Original

Position

Rebels came to him

open field  
very muddy  
ploughed land  
F

Farm House  
with out buildings

Slight ridge of land  
sloping back

Infantry

Ricketts  
Battery.

Infantry

open field covered with  
the wounded.

Woods.

Woods.

some  
road has  
which I believe  
came.  
Richardson

June 2, 1890

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1843

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Common<sup>2</sup>

*[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]*

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Hend

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into a Hospital. Right across the road lay a man, I thought he  
might be wounded and lit a match, but he lay flat on his back  
with eyes glassy and fixed, and I saw he was dead. We moved him  
from the road and papered on. The dead lay thick near the house  
but the wounded had been taken in. I must stop here, for I have no  
more paper. So far all well and unaltered. I hope to finish at  
length soon. Received Father's letter of 31<sup>st</sup> and yours and sister Mary's.  
Rebels seem to have fallen back.

Love to all.

Your affectionate Brother  
Henry.





A. F. M. Friday.

Dear John.

I have been able to get some paper and therefore I open this envelope and continue my letter. I got to the house and delivered our prisoners to Col. German who was in charge and then found Genl. Sumner. It was pitch dark. As I approached a group of horsemen I addressed one and asked for Genl. Sumner. He was close to me, only I could not see and he spoke up in a low voice "I am here Sir." I gave him the Colonel's message and he said we must send up the wounded on blankets as fast as we could without weakening our line. I then returned to the Regiment. The house was filled with wounded men shot in all manner of ways. The Surgeons were working as hard as they could, and the scene of suffering was indeed awful. When I returned, I looked again at the dead man by the road to see if he was one of our Regiment, but his brass plate was marked "8th Infantry, South Carolina." I talked with the prisoners as we went up, and found all had been impressed against their will and wanted to go home. I talked principally with a Georgia man. He said he was poor, owned no slaves and only fought because he had to. He said when his Regiment advanced there was some confusion and he lay down where we found him. We were opposed to the famous Milledgeville Legion of S. C. and it was



Then we drove into the woods and over the field. Magruder's (Ed) was taken and he said Magruder told him that he was now convinced that his troops were no match for ours, man for man. It was on the whole the most splendid victory of the war I think for it was straight out fighting and in the final charge and in the Rebel attack on the battery resembled Waterloo very much.

Well, we were up before daylight on Sunday and at about 5 O'clock they began to feel along our front. They were in great force, as we learned since and determined to make a desperate attempt to regain their lost ground and break our centre. At about 5 O'clock they attacked on our left and the balls whistled by us, but no one was hurt, and they withdrew, and the firing ceased. Large reinforcements had arrived during the night including Artillery and a Brigade after a Brigade came up and entered the woods on our left and behind us. At about 5 O'clock the enemy attacked and in an hour all along our left the battle raged, and the musketry firing was perfectly tremendous. We were marched to our left and on the other side of the road, and drawn up for a support but we were not needed, and although we could see the smoke through the trees and hear the cheer of our men as they charged, and sometimes hear the balls fly by, we were not actually engaged. By afternoon the enemy were driven back on all points with great slaughter and withdrew. In the afternoon they advanced several times a small column, and twice threw volleys in our way,



and killed one man of Company H, but this was the only loss during the day for us. We were under arms most of the night. <sup>(2)</sup> Monday there were constant alarms, and one of our men of Company B, on picket was wounded by our own shell thrown at the Rebels. The Rebel Cavalry approached and we fired square, but they made no regular attack. During the night there was a picket alarm and we were marched back and resumed our place in the morning. Tuesday we waited and there was only artillery firing and very little movement of troops. Abbott with his Company was on picket at a house I have marked K on the map. The enemy came to the chantry farther down the road and attacked him. The Regiment marched to his support and drew up on the edge of the woods. The enemy were driven away but returned in the afternoon, fired a sudden volley just as our Company was entering to relieve Company I and wounded 2 men of Company H, who were in reserve there. We were on picket here during the night and all was quiet. We staid here Wednesday, and on Wednesday afternoon, as the enemy appeared to have left the chantry the Colonel ordered me to examine the premises, with 10 men and a Sergeant. Abbott's man had been there when he was on picket at the house, but the enemy suddenly coming up drove the men back, they even being obliged to leave blankets and knapsacks. I approached my men as skirmishers and threw them round the chantry and posted them as look outs and then entered the house and



found only a dog. I sent word to the Colonel and remained till Capt.  
Mallowell and his Company came up. Soon the enemy began to  
fire on us from pickets, and we kept it up till night the men firing  
from behind shelter. No one hurt. At night our pickets were  
thrown out to this shanty and I and my 10 men fell back to the house  
where we now are, behind barricades, as a support to the pickets.  
The Regiment is just in the edge of the woods, their left resting on this  
house. Yesterday there was some picket firing and several shots  
thrown in here, but no one hurt. During the morning Porter  
advanced on our right and captured a battery, but to day it has been quite  
quiet, and I hear the Rebels have fallen back. So here I am  
and you have a full account although a tremendous letter. Large  
re-enforcements have come up on the Railroad from New-port-  
News, and I hear we all advance to-morrow. We have had  
rain every day and have had little sleep, and been wet and muddy and  
no chance to dry off or change clothes for 2 days together. We have  
really endured a great deal, and have been and are in the advance,  
and under fire almost all the time. I am perfectly well. I  
fear you have all been very anxious at home. You must try not to  
be. All will probably be settled soon now. The Regiment has  
gained great honor. Colonel well and full of spirit. He led the  
charges. I hope to write again soon. I have still quantities to  
tell you. Love to Father and Mother and all. Ever affectionately  
Henry





Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment beyond Fair Oaks  
Station, Va. June 9<sup>th</sup> (Monday) 1862.

My dear John.

I have written you a very long letter about the late battles, and yet I feel that I have not told you half. I am so disgusted with the falsehoods of the New-York papers, and so angry to see these false accounts copied into Boston papers, that I feel disposed to write you everything, so that there may be at least one man at home who knows the truth. There are two points that need to be well understood. The first is that there were two separate battles on the 31<sup>st</sup>. This the New-York papers ignore entirely, and speak of Cass being driven in and fighting desperately until re-enforcements arrived, implying that then he in his turn advanced and shared in the victory. Cass was defeated in about an hour. I heard the firing when it began, and when we fell in, it had entirely stopped. We marched up and engaged the enemy at about 5 o'clock P.M. We had been re-enforced from Richmond in the mean time. We fought two hours or 2½ hours, and completely drove the enemy from his position, and our men ceased firing him when it was so dark we could not see him. That very night our 2<sup>d</sup> pickets reached almost to the "G Mill road" and the depot. During the night the enemy fell back. So you see Cass was routed, and Sumner came up 24 hours afterward and routed the enemy and



occupied almost the whole of the ground Corey had lost. On Sunday the enemy made merely a tremendous attack to recover his lost ground and was repulsed and obliged to fall back still farther. Much larger numbers were engaged on Sunday, but with us it was a defensive battle, and as is usual in such cases the enemy being defeated, fell back farther than the position from which he advanced. I think the honor now alone should be given to Sumner and his corps who advanced late in the afternoon and attacked a greatly superior enemy flushed with victory, and utterly routed him. The second point I wanted established was this, that Sunday's battle was on our part merely a defence of the position taken by Sumner on Saturday P.M. I want to correct some other errors. The papers speak of the "important aid" given by Sedgwick's Division &c., as if we did not do so much as any other body of troops. Sumner's Brigade is spoken of in the same way. A part of our Division the 3<sup>rd</sup> N.Y. was close to us and stood up splendidly and did their duty, and so did the 2<sup>nd</sup> N.Y. But we did exactly the same thing and the only difference was that we came up about 15 minutes later. As to Baxter's Fire Zouaves they did badly both they and again yesterday when their pickets came running in on us having left their posts. The 2<sup>nd</sup> especially occupied the advanced post during the night after the battle, and have since been constantly on picket and fought 2 or 3 skirmishes and been more or less under fire every day. As



to our Brigade, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January (at 12<sup>th</sup> A.M.) were not  
in the battle at all, and did not come up till everything was over;  
so of course they deserve no praise nor blame. There is an 'lie'  
so very evident that I wonder that even the New-York Herald published  
it. That paper said that a New-York Lieut. Colonel took Genl.  
Pettigrew. He was taken by Corporal Sumnerchages of Company I,  
20<sup>th</sup> Mass. and brought to Lieut. Abbott commanding the Company,  
and Abbott now has his sword. Abbott took him to the Colonel  
who treated him in the kindest manner and had his wounds dressed  
and when the General expressed his surprise at his good treatment, Col.  
Lee told him he had fallen into the hands of a Mass. Regiment  
and would be treated as a Gentleman. He gave up his watch which  
was immediately returned to him. We also took Lieut. Col. Bull,  
wounded. He died during the night.

Our Regiment was opposed to the famous Hampton Legion  
of South Carolina and they fought well, and rallied in the open field  
just at the last, and we drove them there at the point of the bayonet  
which was no doubt the last charge of the day. Genl. Pettigrew  
was found on this field. Do you see we have done our part.  
On Monday we collected Guns &c. and buried the dead. All over  
the field where we rested after the battle the Rebel dead lay thickly  
scattered, killed in every way. It was an awful sight. & Men  
were mangled by shell in every way. The woods in all directions were



full of dead. On Monday night I was up all night on guard. It was awfully dark and still while a terrible thunder storm rolled up. At about 1 O'Clock the wind came out from the West and brought a sickening stench from the dead Rebels which filled the woods. Then we had a terrific thunder storm. On Monday we collected the muskets 112 in all which lay about us, and the Colonel sent me with the Company to carry them to Goul. Linn with a report. He told our Company that he gave them this honor, because they had behaved so well in the battle. We lost 6 men, out of 38 and 2 Officers; a heavier loss than that of any other Company.

Well, we have had some picket firing and some Artillery firing all along, and yesterday (Sunday) they attacked our pickets, and were after a while driven back. Then our forces advanced, and Sumner, Sedgwick, Grant and French were all at one time close to the house I have before mentioned and at which house we were stationed. We have moved a short distance, and now we are close to the Rail Road. Sumner's Corps has advanced about 1/2 a mile directly toward Richmond, and yesterday afternoon an immense number of men with axes were sent forward, and have cut down quite a forest before us and opened the path for our guns. So far however all is still, and there is a report that they are excavating. I do not know what to believe.

I have received your letter and Mary Ellen's. The 2<sup>d</sup> have





gain great honor in this man's fighting, and the official reports  
will show it though the newspapers do not seem to know it.

Well, I do not think of anything more to tell you now.  
I shall try to write soon again and shall keep you fully informed,  
if I can.

Love to all. Write often.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment near Fair Oaks.  
Va. Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I received a letter from you several days ago telling me how anxious you were and how glad to find some London letter (the latest I have received) that you heard of my safety before you felt sure I had been in much danger.

I have written very fully to you about the battle and have nothing new to tell you. I wrote to Father that we had been moved  $3\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile back, and are now camped on the slope of a hill close to the Railroad. Our Brigade endured a great deal, with constant duty, fatigue and picket, and this during some of the heaviest rain I ever saw, and with a great lack of food and sleep. Water is the soldiers' great enemy. I am convinced of this. If a man can keep dry he can do almost anything, but to get wet through and have no chance to change and to sleep on muddy ground after a week or so, breaks down most men. They do not "catch cold" as people at home suppose, but contract wet and the wearing of wet clothes gets up a sort of low feverish state. I really suffered a good deal. I did not remove my clothes from Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> till Wednesday evening June 11<sup>th</sup> and was soaked with mud and water a great part of the time. Of course one gets naturally dirty in such a length of time, and I found it brought about—



an irritable state of the skin. I had a boil under the arm, and was obliged to neglect it entirely, and did not even see it, but had to let it grow and burst of itself, irritated by my flannel shirt, and it had discharged 2 days before I could even wash the place. So you see there are some inconveniences of campaigning not down in the books. In fact one has to get completely over one's old ideas of necessities and comforts, and find out how little is really needed for a man to live with. With a field or staff Officer who has generally a tent, and horses and who has no picket or night duty, the case is very different. He can always be comfortable.

Well, the enemy shall our lines every day, and generally are unable to get back any reply from our batteries whose positions they wish to find out. Very few, if any, are hurt by this process, for as soon as we see where they are trying to shell, we move a short distance off, and they have spent most of their powder in attacking an open field which was crowded with our men. All the time we are getting the most perfect knowledge of their batteries and when our numerous batteries do open, I hardly think they will stand it long. Their firing range and shell are very inferior to ours. Only about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of their shell burst at all. We are vastly superior in Artillery, and the late battles have given our men perfect confidence in their bayonet charges, and must have produced an opposite effect on the Rebels.

We seem to be fortifying a position here to protect the Railroads,



and to supply a firm base of operations for the great attack on Richmond. The pickets got firing a little were in at about 10 O'Clock, and so to the batteries, but it is generally quiet afternoon. I am perfectly well and comfortable. The Quartermaster intends to send something by Express for the Regiment and I shall probably get my valise soon. You have not yet acknowledged the receipt of a parcel I sent you by Peter Wilkins. I hope you got it, for it was full of precious relics. I send in this letter 2 very interesting relics taken from the bodies of two dead Rebels on the field of battle the next day or 2 after the fight. One is a small Rebel flag which was found as a memento in a pocket Bible which I saw taken out of the breast pocket of a Rebel killed in the woods, probably by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Regiment on Saturday P.M. The hair in the paper was from the pocket book of a Rebel who was killed by a shell very near where we stopped on the night of the battle. One of my men found a sort of diary, one or two of which was written: "I expect to go home one of these days". Another found a letter in which the writer said to his friend that they might meet in Heaven, but that he never expected to see him again on earth. Both these were found on the bodies of the dead. Many of the bodies were unrecognizable, and few wore uniforms. Several from a Tennessee Regiment wore a sort of red brown saluted cloth, but most of those who had any uniforms wore a very coarse grey pericket. They





South Carolina men, I saw, were quite well clothed. The Rebels were generally good sized men, but looked very dirty and sallow. The prisoners I talked to all said they were impressed against their will, and that they were very poorly fed, and that most of their comrades did not wish to fight anymore. Some of those killed by shell were shockingly mangled, and in many places you could see pools of blood and perhaps a gun and haversack lying, showing where some dead or wounded man had fallen and been afterward carried off. The trees in the woods are terribly riddled with balls and shell and show the marks of very accurate aim, a very large proportion of shots being about breast high. I saw two dead men shot right through the heart and one shot in the center of the forehead. Many wounded men lay for 2 and even 3 days in the woods before they were found and brought in. It was of course a very dreadful sight but like everything else does not really affect me, because it is what you expect. So it is in battle. Such scenes anywhere else would strove any one, there no one minds it at all.

Well, I have my little shelter tent pitched on short stakes here, and a pole bed raised from the ground and am exceedingly comfortable. It is very hot to-day, and as the sun and moon set red, I think we are going to have big weather for which I earnestly hope. You have no idea how much I want something to read. Can you send me the little German edition of *Deine Liebe* by mail? I want to give it



to Herbert. He liked the "Eusebius" very much. If you can send me such small books, please do, but, if not, at any rate send some Magazines or papers, all by mail only. We have to be ready all the time here, and yet are seldom called upon, and have quantities of time to read light books, but very little time for heavy reading. Indeed it is not worth while to send books one cannot throw away, for we move so often. Is the "Harvard" revived yet? I hardly think there will be much racing this summer. If all is successful and the Rebellion entirely put down, by next summer, there will be any amount of racing and excursion parties and travelling. If ever the Officers of this Army get safely home, they will take a month or two of recreation on their savings, and they richly deserve it.

Since Mr. Clellan has begun to encroach and collect, and since he now commands the Department of Mr. Lowell and Burnside, I have thought that very likely Richmond will be a 2<sup>d</sup> Corinth and the Rebellion will be quelled here without a great fight after all. But it seems to me sometimes that such an awfully wicked thing can only be finally done away by some fearful and bloody battle, in which all can see a pretty good share of retributive justice meted out. Please tell me whether Temple of my class is wounded or not. I promised to write to him, but do not know where to direct to. Lowell, Capt. Shepard, and many others could require. Love to all.

Affectionately

Henry.



Camp near Fair Oaks, Va.  
June 17<sup>th</sup> = 1862.

My dear John.

I received yesterday your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> enclosing a note for Henry and 2 newspaper clippings, for all of which much obliged. Henry desired me to thank you, and I believe has expressed his thanks in a plainer manner in the letters he has sent to you and to Mother, which I mailed the other day.

I am glad you understood my letter and there is nothing I recollect having written which I should wish now to contradict. You very likely saw in the "Transcript" a letter of Patten's published without his knowledge, which says we were 20 minutes in the battle. He is mistaken and now acknowledges his error, for 2 Officers besides myself looked at our watches and we all agree that the firing began at about 5.<sup>30</sup> P.M. and that we arrived at about 5.<sup>45</sup>. Now we all know that when we ceased firing it was so dark that we could not see each other's faces, and this must have been about 3 P.M., giving us at least 2 hours in the fight. Of this there is no doubt whatever.

There is one thing I cannot explain fully. All the accounts speak of Corsey being driven in, and giving way &c. at about 1 P.M. This was when we heard the firing. Then we got up at about 5.<sup>30</sup> P.M. and at about this time the battle began again. Now, I am perfect=



by, were that I heard the first firing begin at about one, and cease by two, and begin again about 1/2 hour before we got up, and all this very near and distinct, and not at all dying away in the distance and gradually growing more and more plain, and yet the accounts speak plainly of a continued struggle of Kearney's Division checking the enemy, and their final repulse by Sedgwick. Now, such a continued fight could have been kept up, and I hear nothing of it, I do not see. Of course I was most distant from the firing when it took place at Corey's advanced posts, and from that time till we were in the fight. I must have been getting constantly nearer to the firing, if there was any, and I am sure that it first broke out as clearly and suddenly as the firing of guns on the Common does to you at home, and ended as distinctly, and I cannot see why I (and everybody else who noticed it here) should have been struck with a sudden deafness from 2 to 5<sup>30</sup> P.M. of that day, and yet by this supposition only can I explain the accounts everywhere printed in the newspapers. The fact is I do not believe it was so, and I therefore suppose that Kearney checked the further advance of the enemy, merely by a display of force, and by occupying good positions, and awaited our arrival before making an attack. The enemy probably having met with great success, were more anxious to secure the fruits than to pursue their advantage farther until re-enforced from Richmond and having received fresh troops they renewed the attack in the afternoon and were defeated. This I know, that we took prisoners who were not in





the morning's light and who had marched that day from behind Richmond.  
I understood that Davis himself formed the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiments which  
constituted the column of attack against our batteries in the open field,  
where we passed the night, and himself directed the attack. Perhaps  
the attack was more extended than I at first thought and the fighting  
was continued far on our left after the guns & hand had ceased and  
this firing was too distant for me to hear but to me this seems perfectly  
impossible. I still think in spite of the New York Herald  
and other false accounts that there was very little fighting between 2<sup>d</sup>  
and 5<sup>th</sup> P<sup>l</sup>. As to the "Napoleon Gun" story you cut from the  
newspaper and sent me, I do not believe it. There was hardly any  
firing of Artillery at all, and nothing in the least like the regular and  
rapid firing of a battery. I rather think a battle is an exception to the  
usual laws of perspective and those who have run farthest away in the  
most terrible accounts. As we marched in quantities of New-Black men  
came running through the woods with the bullets whistling after them, crying  
out that "no one could stand that" and exclaiming about "cut to pieces" &c. &c.  
which our men paid no attention, except to aim their arms and marched right  
up into the fire.

The 2<sup>d</sup> night after the battle Company I was on picket, and there  
was an alarm, and volleys fired and the entire pickets of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Michigan came running in, scared out of their wits, while our men  
every one remained at their posts. So a few days later the Baxter Zouaves



abandoned their posts and ran in saying they were "driven in" "cut to pieces"  
etc. all for nothing but a slight attack of Rebels who were probably  
more frightened than they were. They do not seem to understand that if  
there is any danger of an attack that is exactly the place they should  
be at to defend to the last, and give time for the rest to form. I never  
put any trust in any "Zouaves" "Figers" "Chasseurs" or any such kind of  
soldiers. It is enough to spoil any man to dip him up in a striped  
monkey blanket and tell him he is a "Zouave". When Baxter's Zouaves  
ran in the other day, old Sedgwick was in a perfect rage. He ran out  
into the field, and saw a Corporal running in with the usual "my division".  
Sedgwick caught the fellow by the neck, violently licked his rear  
before all the soldiers about, and ordered him back. I hear he says he  
means to have some of the Officers and men shot for cowardice. Well  
I have run off into other things and have not answered your letter.

As to the distances I should say that the house was about as far  
in front of our position, as Mr. Bates' house from our house at home,  
and about twice as far to our right, from the position we last took up.  
Then we charged down to the road, about as far as across the "Public Lane",  
and a short distance say 300 feet into the woods "beyond the road".  
If you imagine the houses opposite our house on Boulton St. to  
be woods, and a ploughed field between, you have a fair idea of the distance.  
The enemy were drawn up this side of the woods, but how much I cannot  
say for I could not see them at all till we charged, and then I only



could make out a dark line or well, so dense was the smoke. If you imagine that we charged across the Public Garden, and into the houses, and then came back to Boylston Street and then marched by the left flank till opposite Faneuil square and then that we charged at the Providence Depot, and that I fell back to Tremont St. and left in it. So you have a good idea of the distances in the great battle of Fair Oaks. Going over the field in the charge, the mud was really knee deep at every step, and our line greatly broken up of course, and we all frequently had to walk and then run on being out of breath. I got along however as fast as the rest and was only hindered by the necessity of urging on the men many of whom were much blown.

As to occupying the ground so far as I have been able to find out, the enemy fell back on Saturday night from almost the whole ground, from which they had not been driven. Of the ground taken from Cemetery. Our pickets Company A. were so close to them during the night as to hear their voices, but did not disturb them because they were searching about in the woods for the dead and wounded. By morning they fell back beyond the Richmond.

As to the Commander in Chief, I say without the least reservation that so far as I can see or hear, he has not lost in the slightest degree the confidence and respect of the Army. And I think justly. For, you must remember that our right wing has not yet closed the Chickahominy, and that the reserve might have been called upon



to resist an attack made on the East side. Besides, until the Rail-  
road was made perfectly secure, and was well supplied with engines and  
cars, it would have been madness to risk a larger body of troops than that  
absolutely necessary, with such an uncertain means of supply, or the brid-  
ges and wagon transportation.

Then remember that the enemy came on in overwhelming force  
and that Leroy gave way instantly and that Still Learning came up  
in time to check the Rebel advance, and we in time to drive them  
back routed by the bayonet in spite of the greatest efforts of Leroy  
himself and his best troops. When an attack is made unexpectedly  
and in overwhelming numbers, it cannot be stayed, and it is the duty  
of a General thus exposed in the advance, to see to it that he is always  
ready, so that he may hinder the assailants as long as possible. Leroy,  
as far as I can learn was totally unprepared. His men should not  
have been allowed to undress, take off equipments or leave their sticks  
as long as he remained thus exposed, and above all, his pickets should  
have given an early alarm and made a desperate defence. If you blame  
McClellan at all, you can only say that he should have trusted  
such an important place only to McClellan's troops. I can think  
of no other criticism.

In such a country transportation of provisions is the great thing  
to look out for. The muddy roads are something that must be seen  
and felt to be understood. Well,





our first assault is nearly done. siege guns mounted and ready. <sup>after that, it cannot be long</sup> suppose we shall soon <sup>begin</sup> these tremendous guns to begin. let him who is in the field not so exact. see his coat, but to saddle into the Virginia Mountains if there we are while the way of escape is still open.

This morning I hear distant heavy guns on our left. Perhaps the Gunboats and Fort Pickens. Corbet, E. L. H. and Tilden are sick, but the rest well. I was never better. In consequence of the appearance of scurvy among the men, we are to have dried apples oranges and potatoes daily, at which I rejoice. To-day it is delightfully cool and clear.

In speaking of Mr. Clellan you seem to forget the terrible difficulties of the country. You must remember that he cannot be sure that a single battery can get 4 miles in a whole day. The roads are often actually impassable until trees are cut down and bridged across the mudholes for Artillery to pass. Then this is a country of dense, swampy forest, and no one man could possibly see more than 2 Divisions at any one time and the woods in front might conceal any number of the enemy, so that even the balloon can give no information. I think Mr. Clellan has adopted the only way of safety in slowly advancing, and not going again forward until he has got up enough provisions and Artillery to make his place secure. Remember, a defeat now would be dreadful. He has now secured the Railroad, and a position 9 miles from the city, has got up his big guns, his Artillery and his food, and his balloon, which it cannot give him much information of the enemy's movements toward him,



is sure of giving early notice of an evacuation to the West where the land is open. I think he intends to ensure the utter destruction of the Rebel Army, and of the Rebellion, and I think he will do it. I see what you mean, but I think you are mistaken. In this light as yet there has been no opportunity for Napoleonic movements and victories. Mr. Clellan rode by us 3 days ago, and we received him in line. He has now a large red beard and does not look so well. He wore a straw hat. As to his ability to meet a great crisis I fully believe in him there, he came to me to have a great deal of absolute confidence which he now has and a chance to display.

As to my feelings about which you enquire, I really hardly now how to describe them, but I can only say that there was none of the indescribable excitement one sometimes hears of. Well I was in danger of being hurt or killed, but I think one does not think so much of the pain of wounds &c. because death seems at times to be imminent. But I think no man of sense would act differently in a battle from the way he before determined and expected to act. I think that being killed does not seem so much to be dreaded and avoided when you are close to death, as when you think of it while in safety. My collection of course was entirely taken up in directing the men, and seeing that they did not crowd together &c. and in passing along the orders. When we were merely standing up and firing, I had less to do and had an opportunity to look round and observe the battle, but as I have said, I could not



very little on account of the smoke. I do not suppose it was at all a trying battle, but I certainly felt perfectly collected, and I do not think my conduct was at all influenced by the knowledge of the danger. I really do not remember that I had any particular feelings to describe, except perhaps a sort of morose and very strong desire to beat the enemy, the latter feeling I had not before expected to have particularly. Well, I have written a tremendous letter, but I want you to write long ones, and dare say you like to get long ones from me.

We are now quite comfortable at this Camp and your stay till the final attack. I have to-day got the "Atlantic" for which I am obliged. Can you send it to me regularly and make me a subscriber? I should like it very much. Try to send some Teubner boots, if you can. I expect the valise to-day. Lieut. Powell has come down to White House to get such things. Herbert and I intend to petition immediately for our degrees. I hope you will do all you can to advance our claims.

Tell Mary Ann to write. I hope she and you will go out to class-day and tell me everything about it and send me the papers. Perhaps Bartlett will be there with his own leg. What a lion he will be!

Your affectionate brother  
Wm Perry.



Camp Lincoln 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
June 19<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My Dear John.

I have just received yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> and am delighted to attempt to answer your questions. I will see how far I can get. I have some things to do in the morning. I will try to get it done. The General told me yesterday that the Rebels used no artillery in the battle of Saturday P.M. But I feel perfectly sure I saw shell bursting in the air, very far high over the battery, and another Officer also has told me he saw shell burst over us. I suppose one of these days we shall know the exact truth. I think your plan of our position is no doubt correct, only probably one line is more in the shape of a semi-circle. As to the position of Couch and the behavior of his troops, I really know nothing. The Division of Mc. Callan's Army is no doubt correct, but really have little means of knowing anything outside of our own Brigade. Now we march into a field and camp, and never learn to ride about and see the positions of other Regiments and have very little notion of what we are at all. You must remember 1<sup>st</sup> that the general state of the country is forest, deep and high forest, and that up to a 200 to 500 acres are cleared for tillage, and perhaps to put up a little house, and the roads wind about through the clearing to the other, and that we march some times through the woods and often in the road.





2: there are no hills at all where one can see over the trees and have the least general view of the country. For these reasons I find it perfectly impossible to get any sort of correct idea of the laws and the positions of the troops beyond the little field where we, or possibly, our Division may be. Every time we march I get completely turned round as to the points of the compass, and you know how confusing this is. If I could go a mile or two in different directions and visit other Corps, and get familiar with the general arrangement of the troops I should get a good idea of every movement, but I never leave Camp, and cannot and therefore can give you no information worth anything of the positions of Corps. I merely know that Porter is on the right and has not crossed, and that Hooker is our next neighbor on the left.

As I said in my previous letter (which you had not received when you wrote on the 12<sup>th</sup>) I rather think from what I can gather and infer that the troops wherever they were who checked the enemy first after Cassin's rout did very little between 2 and 3 O'cl. but must be reinforcements sent for Genl. Sumner, and that the enemy also waited for reinforcements from Richmond. There might have been some firing in the woods, which I did not hear at this time, but nothing heavy at all. The reason we did not get up till 5<sup>30</sup> was this: We did not get orders to fall in till say 2 or 3 O'clock and then had to wait till quantities of troops filed by, and we last of all. In the mean we left the 12<sup>th</sup> a division, and their regt. rapidly and gained up so as to get into action almost as soon as the 1<sup>st</sup> Richmond. You must remember that along these roads a



Division cannot possibly make more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 miles an hour, and often Artillery is much slower. In one case, for instance, the Artillery of an English (Rhode Island) got completely stuck and got up a day or two after.

I have written to you about the impossibility of reconciling the continued fight spoken of by the papers and the evidence of my own ears. I have no further explanation to offer. As to my own evidence, I feel perfectly sure, and was under no excitement whatever at any time, which in the least interfered with my powers of observation or memory. Do not wonder you cannot reconcile the accounts, but I have heard that no newspaper correspondents were present and if so their accounts are no more to be relied on than mine, and not half so much.

As to the attack on our battery &c. I can only say that I did not see anything of it at all, and did not know they had attacked, till afterwards and only hear from others about it. Of this I am sure that they did not come up to me near enough for me to see them and in fact I did, did see them very indistinctly when we charged on them, when no other time was somewhat broken on account of the muddy ground &c. I got ahead of the men and could see through. Some of our Officers however who commanded Companies did see the Rebels' attack and I will answer and answer your questions as well as I can. I have no doubt as you say Mr. Stratton says that there was fighting (on our left) in the woods and fields but our attack was made on the important point,



where the Railroad and the Turnpike road (as I believe it is called) and the "Old Road" all meet and where Davis and Pelham and the South Carolina Troops were. Then as it was my first experience, and I have no doubt I paid too little attention to the enemy and never thought that we were engaged in a really great battle, or were doing a part in large movements. Another time, if I have the opportunity, I shall try to look at the enemy and his actions more. As to getting near them when we charged into the woods the backs of the rear-most were not more than 50 feet from our bayonets, but just where I was I could see none. Others tell me how near they got to them.

I understand that there were no fences to impede the left flank line as we charged into the woods so they got there a little before us. I believe Richardson's Division is in our Corps' Quarters.

Our Regiment is to be sure very small, but I think you would be safe in averaging the actual strength of Regiments in a battle at 600 men. We now average about 200 sick per day, 3/4 of whom are sent back to hospitals in the rear. There is some scurvy and a good deal of low fever and diarrhoea, the latter partly scorbutic. Now we have dried apples and potatoes and shall rapidly improve. The guard, sick, Quartermaster's Department &c. absorb a great number of men. I know nothing of Mc. Clellan's strength but I hear that Mc. Call and 15,000 men have joined us.

I am very sorry for poor Davis. The 2<sup>nd</sup> always does well.



No you say this picket danger is disgusting, but it is surprising,  
how careless we get. We have had our share. Officers are very  
much exposed - on picket.

I am very glad the fellows are at last supplied with our photographs,  
and I hope the light of my countenance will induce them to remember  
the original. Which proof has the preference among them? I am de-  
lighted to hear of the success of the R. I. C. and my beloved A. Δ.  
For that society I feel the greatest affection. I have passed the pleasant-  
est hours of my college life in that society, and my best friends are there.  
So also with the R. C. only that is less brotherly. I am glad  
you put my themes &c. away. Say for my pictures out of my funds,  
if you have enough.

As to my bills I left no private ones at all. As to the expense  
of my fitting out it was distinctly understood, I thought, that Father  
was to pay that. I consider that as reasonable as his paying for  
Frank's medical books and instruments, for example. I thought  
he prepared me for a military life, after which I was to support  
myself. If I should return, I expect to enter the Committee room  
and I suppose my business life would then be begun. Do not expect  
me again to be a non-producer or rather non-laborer, and I supposed  
my fit out was the usual expense to prepare for a self-supporting life.  
Still, please do not mention this to Father, and if, as you imply,  
he expects me to earn from my pay enough to pay for my outfit,





Still do it. I am sure I shall be able to do it. It is a very important  
course from that he has pursued to you and to Stuart, in giving both  
a 3 years education beside College, and even more - more thinking that  
either should do without his assistance: This, of course, between us.  
Tell me all about Glad Day. It is perfectly impossible that  
Allen could have been in Boston since his leave of absence last  
winter from Camp Benton.

I believe now. I have fully answered your letter. As to our  
news, I'll be quick; Don't tell them this morning on our sight.

Yesterday at 2. <sup>30</sup> P.M. we were turned out under arms and  
heard that the Rebels were advancing in force along the whole line  
and a general engagement was expected. At 4. <sup>30</sup> minutes began,  
and lasted along for one or 2 hours, with occasionally a cannon shot.  
Then it slowly died away, and an Officer said it was thought the movement  
was made to cover an evacuation. We slept with equipments on, but  
hear nothing of importance to-day. Our picket lines have been  
advanced. Yesterday I heard from an aide of Genl. McPherson's  
that the General was yesterday in unusually fine spirits, and re-  
marked that he had found and secured the key to their position.  
The Army would be delighted to have the Rebels risk all in an  
attack on our lines.

Tell me all about will. All our friends here often send  
their regards to. Capt. Shy and some his. I have this in my pocket



Henry to White House to get my valise and expect it to-night.  
Please tell Mary Ellen that I wish her letters exceedingly.

Very much obliged for the letter. Do not forget to send  
anything of interest. I of course wish you to charge such expenses to me.

If there were no shoemaker's traps in the valise, please buy a  
pair of Dr. Seidman's traps done on cloth and send by mail.  
You can get a kind that will go a long way. Hence is this even.  
no mine are about spoiled.

Love to all. Write again soon and tell all to write. I went  
to Koon- all night. Also day. Love you even Frank Bartlett.  
If you do give him my love and tell him how we wish him.

Your affectionate brother.  
Henry.

P.S. We are still in the same camp now named 'Camp Lincoln'.



Camp Lincoln, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment,  
Nov 20<sup>th</sup> Friday 1862.

My dear John.

I got my valise last night and I must tell you how delighted I was and how useful the contents will be. I wrote to you that I sent Harry down to White House and he there went on board a Steamer (where he was sent with a sword of the Colonel's and some other things) and saw Mr. Frothingham, Miss Lowell, and I believe other Bostonians, all well. I am delighted with the valise. It is not known by all to be the very best in the Regiment. It is just the thing, and I am more than satisfied. The price (\$13.-) is also reasonable. The pants I have not yet tried on, but I like the cloth very much, and I do not doubt they will fit. The coat is an excellent fit. I like it very much. So also the hat which however looks dreadfully swell. I ought to have ordered more shoes but thought I should get my trunk (where I have a nice pair) before my valise. As I have asked you, please send a nice plain pair by mail. I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness in getting so many things. All are what I want. I found the Sherry excellent. I have not opened the other bottles. Please thank Frank for his letter and tell him why my answer is so long delayed. I shall write to him very soon. In your letter (inside the valise) you speak of delay &c. in my letters. I suppose you have got all however long before this.



I am very much obliged for your nice sponge cake. I fear you have  
tried yourself to serve me. I was very kind of you. Very much  
obliged for your nice books. I shall read all with the greatest pleasure.  
Your supply of fish time is very abundant. I may use it, but it takes  
up little room and it may give me a good dinner in place of a couple of  
hard crackers. I am very much pleased with your selection of books for  
yourself, and am astonished that you made the money go so far.

I like very much your idea of an acting family events by some  
little permanent thing, such as a military book to remember a pro tempore  
I hope I military brother. I am very glad you enjoyed the A.D. and rejoice  
greatly at the prospect of that glorious fraternity. Henry's Cigars  
are excellent I hear. I shall try to read "Brown & S.....'s" speech.  
Love to all. Enclose letter to Mother.

Ever your affectionate brother  
Henry

P.S. Dear John, I am very glad you have published nothing of mine. Please publish  
nothing except in case of battle to relieve anxiety of friends. I mentioned to  
the Colonel that I had seen part of his letter in the "Advertiser," as you wrote to me.  
He seemed much surprised and said he knew nothing about it, entirely disapproved  
of it &c. and said it could not have been his letter. Perhaps you had better not pub-  
lish any more of his till you get his leave. That's fit perfectly. Camarade on  
our left perhaps 3 miles off (H. S. M.) Peter, I suppose. Affectionately,  
Henry.





Camp Lincoln 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 1862. 5 A.M.

My dear John

I received yesterday your letter about Gladstone. I need not tell you how interesting it was. I enjoyed it very much and have read most of it to J. Herbert.

We have been so constantly disturbed by firing, going on for 2<sup>nd</sup> time that I have really been unable to write much and I have great doubts if this letter is finished without interruption. We had quite an alarm at 2<sup>nd</sup> this morning.

I have better advances this morning. There have been great movements of troops during the night, and I really expect a very important day. We were marched down to the works last night, but immediately returned.

I am very glad that all my relics have gone safely. As to the "Atlantic" I should be very glad to get it regularly, and I beg you will read it first, and then send it to me by mail. Please also send the May number.

I am very glad that your business increases. Thank you for your kind present of books. They are all very interesting, but I am afraid I do not appreciate "Phenix". One has to be in a particularly jovial state to enjoy such a book. As regards to the box that has come to me. In case anything else should at any time be sent I hope you will see that no Coffee or Cocoa or Chocolate is put in. Of course, I am exceedingly



obliged for these boxes. Father and Mother read 'em often, and I do not feel like hinting to them that those or that is not desired, but I wish you to tell me what really I want, and what I do not care for so that you can direct without my wanting to presume to dictate in the least.

You see that we are in a hot, damp country, and the humidity is getting me down and lazy and languid. I do not in the least need such a rich hearty drink as Chocolate. I drink what they send, but do not care for it, and of course the room could be much better filled. As to this preserved Coffee, it is a miserable substitute for real Coffee.

You must remember that one cannot get milk at all here. I gave away one can, have two now on hand. Father writes that he has sent out four more in the box. These cost at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  a dollar each and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cans with the Chocolate must have thus cost at least \$4.00, enough to buy 2 bottles of brandy, or whisky, or brandy, or quantities of useful things. I have got to enjoy tea here in this debilitating country.

In case any other box should ever be sent, please see that some of the following articles are sent, in preference to anything else. For liquors: 1<sup>st</sup> Brandy, then Cherry Cordial, or similar. For useful food: salt mackerel, salt fish, perhaps Dutch cheese, a very small amount of best tea, and ground coffee. 2<sup>nd</sup> milk cans, sterilized milk, bottles of preserved ginger perhaps dried ginger, paper Cayenne pepper, paper black pepper box, yeast powder, tomatoes or ham. That will keep in hot weather; white sugar is very well, but I can get good sugar (brown)



here. Pickles, Simms figs, lemons or oranges, syrup,  
wine or other crackers and gingerbread, preserved fruits are always excellent.  
Curry-powder for rice would be very nice. I merely give you this list  
in case anything else should in future be sent, not at all expecting  
anything, and I beg you will keep it to yourself and merely give your advice  
when necessary. Should you ever have an opportunity of sending anything  
to me by any other way, I would be glad to get anything of the above  
list on my own account. Sardines are not desirable because one  
does not fancy such cold weather food here. Remember this is a damp  
weakening country. One wants stimulating food, like Curry &c.,  
and astringent 'fruit' like tea or wine (such as Port, Sherry, or brandy)  
more than rich food like sardines and chocolate.

Now do not on any account show this to Father or Mother, or let  
them think that anything they send is not desired or that I want anything  
I do not get.

Herbert is quite sick. Not much the matter except a little  
fever but very weak, the usual illness here. Recovery is very slow  
here always. Elden is better. Carl is very sick. Carl is quite  
unwell. The Colonel stands it remarkably, but he is feeble.  
Constant loss of sleep runs round almost everyone. As for me, I  
am perfectly well, and I really think I feel "stronger" than any of them.  
I do not mind the great heat so much as the rest, I think.

Thank you for your information about our friend -



I am delighted to hear that Dick is a brother. I shall try to  
write to him about it. Is Burgess or Tiffins (or) in? I am  
very much interested in King's plan. When he writes, I shall  
hope to reply fully. I was rather astonished that Tom should go home.  
Kaggs will get on well but will be laughed at for some of his crotchets.  
I long for Kaggs' letter. You know he has so long neglected me.  
I am very much interested in everything about Club Din, the I.C.P.  
and the A.D. and am delighted the last is getting on so well.

I have no news. We have conflicting rumours as to  
Federic's Corps. Quantities of troops were moving yesterday, and  
in the night. The Rebels shelled heavily yesterday. Some passed  
over us here, and very close. I shall try to send home the books I  
have read and other things by Express.

Love to all.

Most affectionately  
Your brother  
Harry.





Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment near Landing  
on James River July 6<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear Mother

Although it is about a week since I wrote to you in 3 days since we settled down into a quiet life in Camp, I have only been able as yet to write a hasty letter to Father yesterday, and to-day to try to give you a more connected account of the important events and terrible scenes of the past 10 days.

In the morning of Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> our Regiment was ordered out on a working party. There had been a great deal of heavy cannonading, especially on the right, for several days, but, so far as we knew, nothing particular had happened, and I went out on the working party that morning just as I had gone and so often before, expecting of course to return at night and leaving Henry at the tent to see to my things and to get me some dinner when I returned. We went to work on a Magazine being built some distance in the rear of one of the principal redoubts. I was observing the digging of a trench when an Officer rode up and hastily enquired for the Commander of the party, and at the same time told me to collect the men and stop work. Capt. Macy was in charge of the party, for the Field Officers did not think it worth while to come out on a working party. Cap. Shepard had staid in camp to do some writing. The men were collected.



and we marched further to the left, as look up position on the top  
of a piece of woods behind part of the earth works occupied by the 10<sup>th</sup> Kal.  
Col. Lee, Col. Palfrey, the Major, and most of the other officers  
soon joined us. Herbert was quite sick and was in the camp. Do  
was Curtis. Alan had been ill for some time, but was with us quite  
weak and lying down under the trees. Suddenly he became worse.  
Dr. Cichore was sent for and he was taken back to camp. Near  
that he and Curtis were sent on in an ambulance from camp, probably  
to the James river. Neither of them have been with us since.  
Soon after we got to the woods, saw at about 10<sup>00</sup> A.M. an order  
came to dig trenches. We attempted to do so, but the ground was so very  
swampy we were obliged to give it up. In the earth works, however,  
they dug them. Then we heard that our right had been turned and  
that we must expect a flanking fire. Capt. Shepard came down,  
and in the most excited and secret manner told me that it was all up:  
Our right turned, we were going to retreat, and were in a most precarious  
position, &c. However, we did nothing all day, and were not fired  
on. Henry came down and told me that the whole camp was pack-  
ed up. I sent him back with orders to see to my baggage and  
precede us on the march. He left me a good supply of food and  
my Rubber blanket. At night a guard was posted and we slept  
just where we were. At 3 A.M. on Sunday morning (29<sup>th</sup>) we fell in  
and quietly marched off down the Railroad and past our old camp.



All the troops were gone and the Camps were entirely deserted. Nothing was left behind but quantities of blankets, pots, boxes, knapsacks, &c. At the Railroad was an immense amount of Stores which were being rapidly destroyed. Barrels of flour, Sugar, Coffee, Whiskey, &c. were knocked in and poured into the mud. Nothing was cut to pieces. Ammunition thrown into a bog near, and they were knocking a war-rocket battery to pieces. It was terrible to see this great destruction of property. A few Cavalry were sent to give the alarm of the enemy's approach, and a couple of guns on a slight rising ground were unlimbered and ready to check the advance of the Rebels. We marched down the Railroad for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile, and then came out on an open field on the left of the Railroad, where we found our troops drawn up in battle array, the guns on a rising ground. We were forced along the edge of the woods nearest our old camp, and of course closest to the enemy. We sent out pickets. The 1<sup>st</sup> California and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Indiana were on our right and left and also had pickets out. Here, after all those still behind us had passed down, we awaited the advance of the enemy. The troops drawn up on the open field were Sumner's Corps, charged with covering the retreat. They were passing down the Railroad for perhaps an hour before the enemy came on. We heard the Rebels cheering as they came out and took possession of our deserted works and camps. Soon they came farther on, and before long engaged our pickets. The picket firing was at times



quite heavy and then would about cease. But all this time the enemy were pressing on in increasing numbers, and our forces being of 2 along the Railroad and a road made by it. I was very trying to stand up and know this, and yet do nothing. At last the enemy brought up Artillery and shelled us and advanced and opened heavily with musketry. Our guns opened and the shell blew over our heads, and the enemy's shell burst over us and near us. The battle lasted for some time, but at last ceased, the Rebels probably waiting till more of their troops should come up. All this time, our Regiment, except Companies I & B which were advanced as pickets, remained expecting the enemy every moment. It was to me much more trying than any battle. Knowing as I did that our own troops were falling back, and the Rebels advancing every moment. All our troops had now left the open field and were marching along the Railroad, and the order came for us quickly to draw in our pickets and march after them. We did so, and silently and rapidly crossed the open field and marched down the Railroad, on the further side of the open field we found another line of troops, a new picket line, left to give us notice in case of the enemy following very closely. But no alarm was given, and we marched down to Depot Station about 5 miles and here was a very large open field and our Corps line again came up. So this was the first battle near Fair Oaks. We lost no men, but our men were just touched by bits of shell.





I hear the enemy lost a large number. It was awfully hot. Some of our men were sunstruck and almost all threw away their blankets, and Kuapsach's. They were skinned with these, in great numbers. I have not an opportunity of writing more now, but will take up the story here in my next and try to give you a connected account of the whole.

The shoulder straps have arrived safely. Can you send me two more Kew for my valise? I have lost one, and like to have extra ones. Please also send some toothpicks and stumps by mail.

I hope some one keeps the newspaper accounts of anythings of interest to me. I especially want to keep Calico things. It is Dr. May's old sofa in the A.D. I gave it. I will try to get you a "Dixie" or "Oak's stick".

Love to all.

Most affectionately  
Henry Lopes.

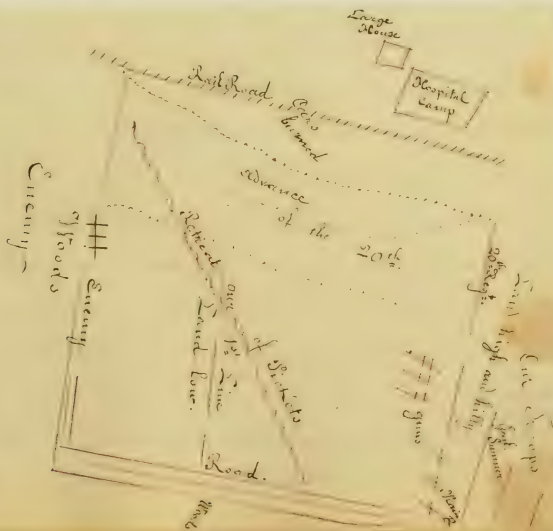
P.S. Just received yours 2<sup>nd</sup> and Father's 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.



Camp 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment near Sumner,  
on James River, Monday July 9<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John,

I wrote to you yesterday and gave an account of our retreat  
after the 1<sup>st</sup> battle which I see is called in the papers "Richmond".  
I made a mistake in saying that then we marched to "Spatch" station.  
I should have said "Savage's Station". Well, we marched to this immense  
open field, and it was terribly hot. The Railroad ran through the field  
and our forces were soon drawn up on the South side of the Railroad,  
where the ground was quite elevated. I here will give you a rude outline  
of the place.





On the left (or North) of the Railroad, was a line of trees, shaded  
with large trees and a little in the rear about 50 well tented in  
regular order, in which a large number of the sick and wounded, who  
could not be carried off, had been left with suitable attendants. This  
camp of tents was formerly Pleintzelman's Headquarters. Soon after we  
got on the field a large number of men filled with ammunition were burnt.  
A small fire of some kind of powder blew up. It was a line fight. A  
tremendous column of smoke was forced high into the air and looked like  
an immense white balloon. When we first came on the field we were  
drawn up in a position at right angles to the one I have drawn, our  
front toward the house, and we left on quite a rising ground. We  
waited quietly till near 5 o'clock and ate a dinner, and then  
fired. Several companies along line & troops toward the woods. The  
distance from York, I remember (as I have drawn it) to the woods  
where the enemy were, was I should think as far as from the State House  
to the Providence Depot. The enemy opened the battle firing from a  
battery, just at the edge of the woods upon us, Our left being, as I said,  
so high ground was much exposed, and several were wounded. Soon  
we were marched by the right flank to the position I have shown, and  
here our right was particularly exposed for a like reason. The shell  
flew and burst close to our right companies and several were exceedingly  
killed, yet it was about 12 or 15 min before we received orders to change  
our position. The Companies I am now drawn back from the



high ground and placed behind the 2<sup>d</sup> Division. The Rebels threw  
many shot and shell right among the Missal tents for an hour or night,  
and at last a man came out with a white flag, upon which I think they  
stopped them. After the Artillery had thundered away for about an  
hour, our Infantry advanced and engaged the Rebels who had now  
come out of the woods in front, and there was the usual roar and smoke.  
Just now also a heavy thunder storm rolled up, and altogether it was a  
very splendid sight. Our Infantry had driven the Rebels back into  
the woods, when we received orders to go back into line, and then  
to advance. We went forward with the 2<sup>d</sup> line, we the extreme right,  
and pretty at double quick and with cheers ran forward. Our General  
Simmons was there on horseback, cool as ever. A shell burst right  
among his staff but he seemed to take no notice of it. We crossed  
the field and got to the edge of the woods. Here we halted and after  
a short time of heavy firing from our troops in front of us, the Rebels  
left and we were in position of the field. Our Regiment did not fire  
a shot, but were considerably exposed both to Artillery at first and to  
snarketry near the woods. It was now getting dark, the other Regiments  
were drawn back and we left on the edge of the woods. We threw out  
pickets in front the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan had a few pickets on our right in the  
other side of the Railroad and the 15<sup>th</sup> Mass. on our left. Our  
Company and Company A. all under Capt. S. Coultett went on picket.  
It was actually dark. We posted the men and communicated with





one neighbor on either side. Soon a heavy crowd came up on the side near  
himself. Part of the plain was still lit up by the remains of the still burning  
cans. The woods were filled with dead and wounded Rebels many groaning  
and crying out and begging for assistance. We could see nothing - but I  
spoke to several and told them I would do what I could as no picket  
line was established. There was a Colonel a Captain and a  
Lieutenant close to us. They were all from South Carolina, and the  
Lieutenant told me we had been engaged with a Brigade of South Carolina  
troops at Lexington. We gave them water and a cigarette every  
man and that was all we could do to take them in, but none came. We  
could hear them groaning, & a distance and heard us in the woods, and  
some of our pickets said they heard the Rebels coming to them and taking  
them off, showing how near the enemy was. At about 11 O'clock,  
I should think, Capt. Scudlett who had been sent in the evening to see  
exactly where we were, came and told us that the Regiment and all  
the troops were gone and the plain empty, yet no orders had come for us to  
withdraw. We could not find these Richman pickets on our right  
and therefore sent a Sergeant to explore. You must remember that it was  
pitch dark and we in a wood. While we were waiting this, an order  
to draw in the line, was quietly put down. Capt. Shepard drew in our  
Company, and sent word to Company A. Just now a volley of musketry  
came from the other side of the Railroad. The Sergeant sent had  
found no Richman pickets and had been fired at by the advancing



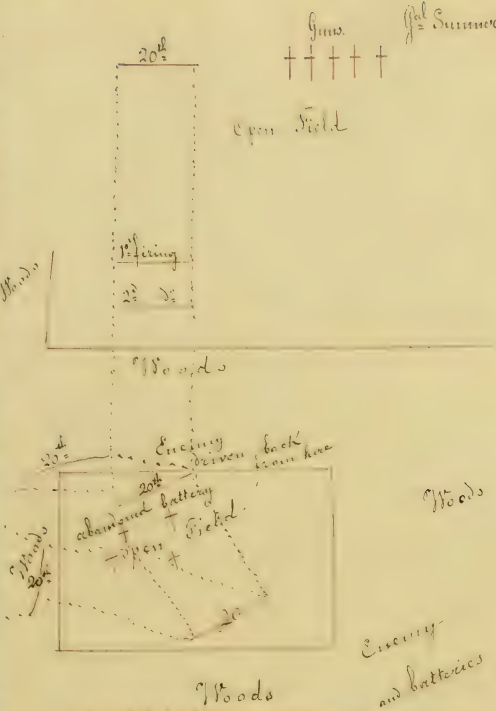
pickets of the enemy. Silently we fell in and marched across the open field, obliquely to the right. It was day and we were constantly on guard against ambushes and trees, so day was the darkness. The fire lit up the deserted plain. We at last struck the road on the right and followed it along, and took the main road to the right, and before we had gone over two miles, came upon the rear of our retreating army, and marched with them, without adventure till we joined up with the Regiment at about 3 P.M. It was a very unsteady, tiresome march, especially to us who were tired before. This picket adventure, was, you see very close, for the enemy must have learned of our departure, from the wounded men, and could easily have headed us off with a few Cavalry. It was a very tight place, and certainly we were all quite cautious until we had got a good start. The whole Division halted at about day break and lay down and got about an hour's sleep. When I woke I saw Sergeant Compaes with a cup of coffee, which Mr. Lindy had made for me. I drank it and ate something and felt much revived. Poor Sergeant Compaes was killed that day and it is pleasant to remember this act of kindness. At about 6 O'clock we marched on some distance farther and then again halted and soon the Artillery opened on our right. Before long we got orders to fall in, and marched in the direction of the fire and halted and fought some distance in some of the actual conflict. The enemy's shells all fell to our left in a wood which was soon



on fire. It was very hot, and we all had suffered much from  
thirst. This was really terrible, and the only water the muddy  
pools on the road side which were eagerly drunk up. At  
about noon the firing ceased, and we lay still till about 3.<sup>30</sup> P.M.,  
when firing suddenly broke out on the left, and was soon very severe.  
We were marched very rapidly, although it was awfully hot and  
dust, toward the left. Soon we came out on an open place, where  
the shot and bullets and shells were plying very thick, and the Artillery  
playing, and our troops evidently engaged in the woods in front,  
where all was hid in dense smoke and the roar of musketry  
was incessant. Sumner was here and moved us instantly to the front.  
As we had marched by the left flank, our Regiment was first  
on the field, and immediately formed in line and advanced in face  
of a tremendous fire of Artillery and musketry toward the woods.  
Our advance was perfectly steady although we fell at every step.  
We halted and dressed 3 times. Our Company lost dead fully  
here from shell and cannon shot. As this was our great fight  
I will give you a little more. Sergeants Holmes and Company  
were instantly killed here. We got pretty near the woods, halted,  
fired and after a few moments again advanced halted and fired  
again and continued firing for some time. Then we had orders to  
file to the left oblique and then to cease firing. Some of the Regi-  
ments on our right and left however got excited and did not cease



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here a long time, the fire very severe. I was near Abbott  
was shot, he fell to the rear and said 'Ropes, I have got it at  
last, take my command'. I was awfully hot, we were covered  
with sweat and black with smoke and powder. Poor Abbott





and soon an officer came running out of the woods throwing up his hands, and begging us not to fire on our own men who had advanced from the right and driven back the enemy. Soon we were advanced through the woods in front and came out in an open field, where was the most terrible sight I have ever yet seen in war. There was one of our batteries abandoned, the horses lying dead and wounded and some dreadfully torn by shell and some kicking and bellowing and the ground covered with dead and wounded men, Rebels, and our troops in front and up with the Rebels at the end of the woods beyond, and the smoke darkening all and the shouts of the combatants often rising above all. Our men were just being driven out of the woods. The battery and the broken Regiments tried to rally behind us the reinforcements. I should have said that before we crossed the open field where the battery was, we filed to the right in the edge of the woods and then advanced. The enemy were evidently in great force, and after covering our men who were falling back, we about faced, wheeled to the left and entered the woods as I have shown in the plan. Here we halted and opened fire on the enemy who had come out and filled the field. We stood here a long time, the fire very severe. It was here Elbott was shot, he fell to the rear and said "Ropes, I have got it at last, take my command." It was awfully hot, we all were covered with sweat and black with smoke and powder. Poor Elbott



was in great pain. I went to the right & his company. His men  
were firing away perfectly cool, and taking steady aim. The  
thick woods as well as the field were full of the dead and wounded.  
On our right were the remains of the broken Regiments in no  
kind of order, but firing away as well as in advance of others.  
I tried to get them to form a line, but I could see no Officers,  
and they paid no heed to my orders. They seemed brave men enough,  
but too much excited, and did not seem to know the necessity of  
keeping regular formations. Suddenly I looked to the left, and to  
my great astonishment saw the Regiment on our left running  
back in disorder. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan. I have since  
heard that the Colonel gave the order to fall back and is now  
under arrest for it. At the same time I saw our entire left running  
back in disorder and the 20<sup>th</sup> alone, about 200 men facing the  
enemy. I knew of course that we must fall back, for  
it would have been foolish to have stood and been surrounded, as  
the enemy had nothing to oppose them on our right, no weakness on  
left. Abbott now rushed up. He had refused to go back,  
wishing as he said to see it out. In a few moments the order came,  
"About face" "forward march". So we fell back, but twice we  
halted, faced about at the same time, fired. We were descending quite  
a hill. The enemy pressed on with vigor, firing constantly, and in  
a few moments opened up a cannon battery on us. As we got to the



foot of the hill the underbrush was very thick and although  
Col. Fisher, led the Regiment to the right a large number  
kept straight on and got Spruett's team in. I hear that the enemy  
did come in on our right and took many prisoners. "Hear"  
(i.e. on the right) there was a row and we halted and formed  
and marched a little further back. The shells were still  
bursting over us, and it was getting dark and the enemy were near  
and firing still continued. The 10<sup>th</sup> formed also all sorts of  
other Regiments were there, some of the Officers greatly excited,  
waving their swords, begging their men to come on &c. Our  
Regiment halted quietly and formed calmly. Soon Cize  
rode up and said that 2 Brigades had advanced to our right  
and now the heavy fire broke out and we heard the cheers of  
our men. Before long it died away somewhat, and another battery  
came up, and we hear that our fresh troops had driven the enemy  
back. Afterwards I learned that we not only recovered the guns  
but took two from the enemy besides. We remained here all  
the way till it was long after dark and then marched along  
a by road toward our old position, and halted by the same side, and  
Col. Fisher went to report. Then we heard of Lowell's death  
and of our other losses. Col. Lee was in command of the Brigade  
and was knocked down by a battery horse running up, and badly  
wounded. He is now, I hear, on a back and is well taken care



of, no doubt. Col. Delfrey was slightly wounded, Hollowell just scratched. Abbott shot through the arm, yet he managed to march with us to the river, and has now gone back to be attended to. He is about the bravest man I ever saw. He is always cheerful and hopeful and never gives up.

Bathur was hit in the leg, but came along on horseback. Miller was wounded and I believe left behind. Herbert was so ill he had just been able to get along the last 2 days on a horse, and had not been with his company and was not at all able to be with us in the battles at all. I feel very sorry for him. Well, we were dreadfully exhausted and lay down and got a little sleep. At midnight we were roused, fell in and again marched and about 1 A.M. we got to a perfectly immense extent of open land, very hilly and pretty and where we had a fine view, and the river was in the distance. Here we got some breakfast, food was given out and we dried ourselves and got rather more comfortable. This place was called "Malvernair", I hear. The battle which I have just described is called the battle of "Attoan's Farm". Some of the papers speak of the battle of "Oak Swamp" which may be the same.

Well I have written a tremendous letter, and I dare say you are tired at reading it. I will finish the account of this great retreat in my next letter.

We have been now nearly a week in this camp, and are beginning to get comfortable but it is awfully hot. I long for the boys of Kansas, &c. We may be here some time





Nancy would like you to find out from Mr. Redpath how his family are. I enclose a Rebel stamp which Henry found in a deserted house and sends a present to you.

I have sent by Capt. Macey, in a trunk he has just sent home by Express, a package directed to you containing 'Shu Brent' which I enjoyed very much, and would like to have kept. Also a lot of private letters to be put in our box, a little prayer book which I picked up at 'Fair Oaks', and an old letter I found at the 'haunt' which I took possession of with 10 men soon after the battle of 'Fair Oaks'. Also my gold watch, of which the crystal is broken. Please let these things be kept against my return. Henry also sends a Scotch letter which he thinks will be interesting to you.

I am very well, and we are perfectly quiet now. Genl. Danne has gone to the rear sick. We have a new Regiment, the 55<sup>th</sup> Mass. Inf. added to our Brigade. We all feel Lowell's loss very deeply, but since we all were with him in the danger, and have been so busy and excited since, it does not seem like a death at home. Yet, you will feel it very much. I liked him very much indeed.

I want exceedingly to get your letters after you had heard all the news. Thank Garrison for his letter. I shall try to answer soon, but we write under great difficulties here. I owe to them all at home. I owe letters to sister Mary and 'Frank', but do not know when I can write.

Do



write and tell me everything, and what they think at home, and what  
the war is coming to. I don't like the aspect of affairs abroad.

I remain

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment Mass. Volunteers  
near Harrison's Landing, Va.

July 11<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I have just received yours of the 7<sup>th</sup>, and I hasten to reply; but first I will continue the narrative of the retreat which I believe I left off in my last letter at "Malvern Mills" or "Malverton", as, I think, it is called.

We are now quite comfortably settled in this camp, and I am perfectly well. I was early on Tuesday morning (July 1<sup>st</sup>) that we arrived at this beautiful place "Malverton", after another fatiguing night march, following the terrible excitement of the battle of "McDon's Farm". We found ourselves on a hill overlooking an immense open tract of country, broken by hills and with several fine pieces of woodland, and several large good houses on it. As it grew light, we saw the ground was occupied by our Army as far as the eye could reach, except in a northerly direction where a ravine separated our position from another open place beyond which were dense forests. Our forces were gradually taking up positions, and it was a magnificent sight. We were not marched to the extreme front but lay in the 3<sup>d</sup> general line in a beautiful clover field near a house. We were in line of battle, and lay down and rested. It was perhaps 9 O'clock



before the battle opened. Then we could distinctly see the black masses  
of the enemy emerging from the woods and taking up position  
in the open. In a short time the ravine in support of batteries which ad-  
vanced and opened fire. Few of their shots at first came near us,  
and before long the Artillery had got pretty generally into play, and there  
was the usual amount of smoke &c. After an hour or two  
the enemy got up nearer and then commenced throwing shell right in  
among our Division. At about this time our batteries unaccountably  
ceased, and we were seemingly for no reason, exposed to a very close  
fire of shot and shell. We several times had changed our position.  
At last the fire was very accurate, shell bursting right in the middle  
of Regiments on all sides of us, and many being killed and wounded,  
but none of our Regiment hit, although quantities of shell came not  
more than 5 or 10 feet from where I was. At last came the order  
to move, and we marched off by the flank, still exposed, and were  
placed for shelter behind a hill and in some woods. Just about this  
time the fire ceased suddenly, and we afterwards learned that we had  
taken the whole rebel battery by throwing troops in their rear, and that  
they were allowed to play upon us so long, that they might be kept in  
position while our men surrounded them. The next day I saw some  
of the captured guns. During the remainder of the day we were very  
comfortable in the woods. In the afternoon there was firing again,  
and our Division ordered out of the woods but were immediately ordered





back, our aid not being needed. We slept till about 1 O'clock A.M. of the 2<sup>d</sup> and then again marched and got to Harrison's Landing at about 2 O'clock P.M., or a little earlier. It rained heavily. That night and the whole of the next day and night, we were close to the river, and it was rainy and very muddy and we suffered greatly. Then we marched here about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the river and are in quite a comfortable place. It has been very hot indeed, of late.

Well, as to our state, I suppose we can now muster in the 3 regiments 300 men for a fight and perhaps 10 Company Officers. Companies F<sup>th</sup> and G<sup>th</sup> are consolidated and is Company I and part of Company D under Capt. Mallonell. The rest of Company D, about 20 men, have been for months detailed under Lieut. Meiser, as a special guard for the Balloon, and have seen no fighting.

I have read your letter with a great deal of interest. I tell you truly that when we got to the river, i.e. on July 2<sup>d</sup>, and for 2 or 3 days after everything looked pretty gloomy, and I heard from various sources great distress &c. in the Fleet. But now every one has gained heart: heavy reinforcements have arrived, the men are rested and refreshed, and I think the old Army would to-day fight better for its number than ever before. The new troops would probably do well, too. But a great deal of faith in the Fleet is gone, and a fear will not return. For my own part, although sorely tempted to fall in with the general spirit, especially after reading your



letter. I cannot after carefully considering the whole history of the campaign, blame Mr. Clellan, and all I can say is that I suppose Napoleon would have invented some way of overcoming difficulties, through which I cannot see the least light. For instance, I have heard that orders had been sent for a general advance of the entire army on the day after the battle of "Fair Oaks", and that Porter was obliged to say that the state of the Chickahominy would not permit him to bring over a single piece of Artillery. The difficulties are not such as a little skill and energy can overcome, but so tremendous that the most energetic soul would wilt at the thought. In my mind it is the greatest wonder that we got off the great spin. The words belated description. There seems to be no bottom to the mud. Fortunately, the last half of our retreat was over a better and harder road. As for as to the general charge against Mr. Clellan viz: that he did not attack Richmond before. I answer that never, at any one time has he had a force that justified him in the attempt. True he was no stronger then as now, and the enemy much stronger now, but my first remark is still true. He needed enormous reinforcements, and above all a system of enlistments which would keep the Regiments pretty nearly full. Then there is one other thing which I am almost ashamed to own, but which must be said and which I know is true in spite of all the floundering newspaper accounts. It is this. With the exception of some Colo. Regiments, and a very few others, the troops do not fight.



They will go in and fire and run up and run back and make a splendid charge as long as the Rebels run the other way, but they will not stand up and fight steadily in regular formation and keep at it and stick to it. If the Rebels do not run back in about 15 minutes they certainly will. To be sure the Rebels generally do run first, but still the great majority of our troops are not gentleman soldiers, have nothing of the steadiness of veterans. This is too true and the reason is in my opinion, because the line Officers are not gentlemen. I say this after deliberate reflection. In a battle the tendency to give way, to fear is of such a nature that a merely good, honest, plucky man is very little good as an Officer. The Officer if he feels afraid, must hide it and be above his man. With good Officers the men will do anything. I have taken some pains to notice what kind of men do best, and I find that a merely naturally brave man (I mean a common man) is of no particular good as an Officer. His men are his equals, they see just how he feels, and they feel just the same, and if anything goes, all goes together; but Officers, as a class, must be men to whom the slightest hint of cowardice or the exhibition of fear before an enemy would be perfect destruction and exclusive indignity. They must have a gentleman's sense of honor and regard for character. A substitute for this would be the contempt for death shown by martyrs and religious Enthusiasts, but the bulky store of men,



the sham gentleman style of man is good for nothing. As for our Regiment, I see that as usual the papers praise every one else while no one did what we did. When we advanced over that open field, so important was it at that critical moment, that Sumner himself fell, & covered us half way, and an Officer of the Regular Battery on our left, by which we passed to the front, told me that they said that there was almost a shout of admiration from them, and every one cried out "What splendid Regiment is that?" They said they could see the shells and canister tearing through us, and our line never wavered a hair. As you know, we drove the enemy back, and had we not been so very much advanced, would probably have not been our forced to retire. I have wandered from my subject, however.

I think with you that Sumner is indeed a splendid General, and fully capable of anything. He is not afraid to give the word to advance when the time has come. He is always on the spot and exposes himself very much. We admire him and the men have perfect confidence in him. On that Sunday morning when we all felt that great things were impending and knew that we were the very last of the Army, it was great to see old Sumner ride quietly along with his full white beard, and his calm, firm, and perfectly confident and resolute face. He does not get the credit he deserves. He covered the main part of the retreat. In the falling back from the earth works the 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment was actually the very last Regiment that marched out, and we with the





The New Hampshire and the 1<sup>st</sup> California extended in line were the first  
to repel the enemy from the Beach. The 1<sup>st</sup> was last to retire.  
After the battle of Saragosa Station also Company A and my Company  
were the very last picket which left some hours after the Enemy.  
We have not got credit for what we did the never do so matter.  
History will show, and the Official Accounts will prove all. The  
10<sup>th</sup> is by no means so cut up as you suppose. They were not in the  
heaviest fire by any means, and only lost about 20 men killed and wounded.  
Our loss was perhaps about 40 or 30 and our number engaged very much  
smaller. Let you see the 10<sup>th</sup> promised to the 1<sup>st</sup>.

All present I think the morale of the Army is good, but certainly  
we must have more men. As to the enemy I know their lost territory.  
They had no Artillery to speak of, and Artillery does the work when you  
can get it to play. They fire very well and aim low.

For myself, in spite of all different opinions and gloomy foreb-  
odings, I think we shall all come out well and I mean to stick it  
out if nothing happens, and in the end. Sturgis has resigned and gone  
home. I think he has made a mistake. Mary bonds remains  
and says you are dreadfully fallen away to condemn Mr. Ellens;  
whom he still earnestly supports. Mary and Sanders lost their servants,  
and now we 3 sleep together, and Henry cooks, and it is very pleasant.

The Express runs freely now and I expect my box very soon. Will  
you please send me our maps by Express a box containing a call



Salmon, some salt Crackers, a few Raisins, a Ham, some Tomatoes,  
a bottle of Pickles (in mustard), can procured Milk & the good Coffee;  
and some biscuits. These I think will fill a good bag. Please let  
me know the total expense, as it is divided among us. Send if there is  
room anything else you may find, but no Chocolate or Cocoa, or preserved  
Coffee, or Sugar. Our small thing for me could I put in the same  
bag.

I expect to get hold of my trunk in a day or two,  
and shall find there everything I need in the way of clothing &c.  
I have sent in a trunk of Macy's a parcel for you containing a  
book, some relics and some private letters. I believe I wrote to you  
about them. Be very careful of the letters and have them put (whether  
Aunt) in my bag. Do send me some toothpicks by mail.

Henry Burckmeyer is well and desires regards. I would like  
you to find out about his family from Mr. Redpath. I have sent  
a bag "Best Powder" for making cakes. I receive of all kinds  
always acceptable, especially (to me) Ginger. Please take from my  
money in Father's hands a proper amount and get some present for  
Mother's birth day. I wish I had thought of it before. I  
case you all join in a present make me one. We are to be paid  
again very soon, and I can send home a good supply of money. My  
Aunt's birthday comes on the 14<sup>th</sup>. I fear I am unable for her  
present, too. Please get her a nice present. Let it be a good one.  
I leave it all to you. As to the price, let that be no less than \$2.



and as high as \$10.- if you are anything you want to get. Do not be  
jealous because I am a little liberal towards her, just now. I have got  
more than I want with me - and \$200.- just coming. She is the only  
girl you know. I would rather you spend \$10.- than \$8.- but there  
is no need of her knowing what anything costs. Give Mother and Mary  
Ann my best love and my wishes for many happy returns of their birthdays.  
With God's-blessing I may be home by their next.

I have written a long letter, and really have nothing more to  
say till you ask some questions. Write soon and tell me all home  
news, and what people think and what they feel and what they say.  
I hope you enjoy Swampscott. Where is the boat? Tell me how  
the Coland is, if you hear. I fear he is pretty much used up.

Ever your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment near Harrison's  
Landing, Va. July 15<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I received yesterday your letter of July 10<sup>th</sup> enclosing the 2 clapps for my sword: These are larger than I have had before, but very nice and strong, and I am much obliged to you for getting them. I have just now received yours of the 11<sup>th</sup> enclosing 30 stamps, some tooth picks and 2 Rego both of which fit. I will answer that of the 10<sup>th</sup> first.

I know nothing of the position of "McDon's Farm", but suppose it was the Northern part of the battle of White Oak Swamp. This was the action of Monday afternoon, and in it we lost most of the men. Eight, I think, were wounded (of our Regiment) at Sarages. Holmes was 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, and Comrade 3<sup>d</sup>. Crumpton was 2<sup>d</sup> Sergeant and is now acting as first. His wound was slight. Corporal Simpson, reported wounded badly, could not have lived but a few hours.

I have been unable to find out what troops have reinforced us, but the new Regiment of our Brigade is the 50<sup>th</sup> New York. I have heard nothing of the arrival of Western troops. I dare say Hayden is right about the Clellan.

I have received to-day the 2 Atlantics, and last night the box of good things. Also letter from Frank and one for Henry. Mary





Thanks you and says the remainder of the money in Mr. Nicholson's hands may be spent for paper and envelopes and these be sent to Emily. Mary stood the march well, but is now quite ill. The usual bowel complaint. My valise and a small bag of food came safely in the wagon. Only a few wagons were burned, and these might have been saved. No wagons or guns fell into the enemy's hands during the retreat.

I have told Col. Coffey of the pickles, onions &c. He is glad they are coming and will make a proper distribution of them. I feel very sorry for Herbert and shall write to him very soon. My love to Abbott, if you see him. I shall write immediately to him and tell him the Regimental news and how we miss him. My love to Bartlett, also. My kindest regards to Joe May. I hope he is improved in health.

I am glad you are willing to know more about Mr. Clellan. I have not changed my opinion about him. A man cannot do the deeds of a Napoleon without an old guard and a few Murats and Soult's, nor fight a Waterloo with New York troops. Better wait a good while before you judge Mr. Clellan. I think he is a man who will land on his feet. Did I tell you he spoke to me the other day? He rode in unexpectedly among the troops, and saying was asked if the Whisker had been saved. This was the day after we got to the river, a cold, wet day.



Well, I have answered your letter and can only add that I am perfectly well and the weather is clear and hot. I have distributed most of the little books Mother sent in the box.

Inches and Wadsworth visited us yesterday. The Sanitary Commission presented us the other day with some dried fruit and some ice, both most acceptable.

Please send some books. Good standards, if possible. Also some good steel pens by mail. When next you send any box please put in a few Sadler's Erasers. I used one a few weeks ago and found it a most excellent thing. I enclose letters to Sam Curtis, to Mother, and to Mary Ann. Your list said "2 doz. Pencils" in the box. There were none. I suppose there was not room.

My trunk is coming up and I expect it in 2 days.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Parison's  
—anding, Va. July 17<sup>th</sup> 1862 (Thursday)

My dear John.

I received no letter from home since I wrote last, and have no  
Camp or Army news whatever to give you. The weather is hot but  
very pleasant, and not particularly debilitating, at any rate not to me.

I have several things of importance to tell you. First I  
have discharged Henry, and I shall probably get him a pass very soon  
to Washington, as he wishes to go there. Henry has always served  
me so — and faithfully, and until lately I have always supposed that  
his behavior to others was always proper. But I find he has considered  
that he is not bound to pay any regard to anyone but me, and he has  
several times acted and spoken in a really and almost insolent manner  
to some of the men, Cooks, and others about camp, and even to Officers.  
Now, this cannot be allowed in a camp where he like every other  
Camp follower, is under military discipline to a great extent, and  
must obey orders given by other Officers than me. He had some  
words with Capt. Cabot, Officer of the day, a few days ago, and  
yesterday he behaved in a very improper manner to the Captain in my  
tent and before me. I had a long talk with him and I apologized  
to Cabot for his conduct, but Henry, although he said he was very  
sorry indeed he had offended me, and would do nothing to offend and vex



me, &c. yet appeared to defend his conduct to the Captain. Now, this is really monstrous for him. If he should give any impudence to an Officer before the man he would get knocked down and perhaps tied up or if he resisted like enough, get his head broken, and I told him so and told him I could not have him unless he entirely altered his manners to others, especially to Officers. He however seemed to feel that he was constantly insulted, and could not endure it longer and I finally settled it that he should go, although his feelings to me are the kindest possible. I am very sorry to part with Henry, yet it is his own fault, or rather the fault of his exceedingly respectful and sensitive nature and bearing. If he comes to Boston, you and the others had better not talk to him about the cause of his leaving and convince only that he was tired of our hard life. Well, now that he is to go I must have another man, and the only way is to have another man sent out. I feel very sorry to trouble you again to get me a man but I know how kind you are, and I do not like to trust anyone else about such a matter. You, at home, can hardly estimate the necessity and the value of a servant to an Officer. I have written you before a long letter about the qualifications for a servant, and will not repeat but would only add what my experience with Henry has taught me: And first I should much prefer a white man. He must be strong, healthy, tough, very willing to work and to work hard, on a pinch perfectly honest not above his place, not





liable to get angry because he gets a very prompt order from me or from any other Officer. He must have a proper respect for military rank and must not be quarrelsome and liable to get into quarrels with the non-commissioned Officers. Then he must be a fair cook and a general handy man. I want a brisk man. Henry was and a prompter and a man who is always civil to everybody and not all the time on his dignity. He must be able and willing to carry a load on a march and to put up with hardship. One of the best servants here is a man from Cape Cod, who has been fishing, and farmed a little at home, and who has been for several years Cook and Steward on board a ship. He has the ready and always civil manner that a man gets on board a ship under a ship's discipline and he has got used to being a man under authority and respects Officers and Sergeants as he used to respect the Captain and the 2<sup>d</sup> Mate. When he can get a dinner out of hard bread and salt beef and make fish balls and hash. This is the kind of man I want. Do you remember Albert or Tim at Mrs. Humphreys in Cambridge? I want a man as brisk, lively and as civil and ready as he was. I think you understand. Try for an old Cook and Steward of a ship. - Above all, send no one till you are quite sure of his qualities, especially of his readiness to work. Let him "look alive", much more alive than Henry. Good health is indispensable.

As to wages, I would pay \$18. per month, and although I



will not agree to keep him in clothes and pay him this, I will agree to do so and \$15.- a month in case you are obliged to make this agreement. Fifteen Dollars per month is good wages for the kind of man wanted. For he can save the whole of this. I of course feed him. If he would like to come for say 2 months on trial, you may send him with the agreement that he must pay his own way home. I should like to get a good man at \$15.- and no agreement about clothes. If he has a friend he could have part or the whole of his money paid by you to his wife at Boston, monthly, and I would send it on. Now, John, do not hurry in the least, and do not send till you are sure. I can get along very well with a man from the Company for some time. If you do get a colored man, get one of the good natured kind who will be: "Yes, Masson" to everybody, not such a dignified individual as Henry. Of course, in regard to cooking, if the man is clean and smart, he can probably soon pick up enough. If he can make good tea and boiled rice, and broil a steak, and perhaps make hash and fish balls, this will be enough. As to his passage on, I do not wish to pay \$22. as I did for Henry. By applying properly you can no doubt get a free ticket for him here. Perhaps you can send him on with some returning Officer, free of charge, and this would be the best way. I do not wish to pay a large sum for having him sent on, for I know he can come on free or almost free, by waiting and looking round. If you get one and send him on, and can send anything with him, please



send as much as consisted of Salt Mackrel, Dried Crackers,  
&c. &c., for these articles are much in request here, and what we  
cannot use for our own Mess we could easily let others have.  
If however there is reason to suppose the Army is about to move,  
do not encumber him with much baggage. Let him provide him-  
self with a rubber and a light wool blanket, and if he has a light  
overcoat let him bring that, but do not let him load himself with many  
clothes &c. So much for my servant.

My trunk arrived safely yesterday. I have taken out of it  
as many underclothes &c. as I want, and expect to send it right  
back by Express to Father at Boston, to be kept subject to my orders.  
In it is a parcel of private papers, among them my Commission  
and some military letters &c. all of which I should like to have  
safely kept in my box under Mary Ann's care. As to the rest  
of the contents of the trunk, better leave them in Mother's care,  
and tell her that should we be engaged permanently during the sum-  
mer and winter, I should send on for these things by Express.  
Some of the woollen things (coat &c.) as also the woollen pants left  
at home in the other trunk, had better be wrapped in Camphor.  
I shall also send home John Halifax which please have neatly  
bound and kept. No hurry, of course. I shall probably send also  
several packages for Officers here, which you can have sent round  
to their directions. The Key I shall send by mail when I send



The thing.

The mail 5-day and yesterday brings me no letters. I do not remember that I mentioned to you that I had to pay the Express Agent at White House \$2.<sup>25</sup> for my valise in addition to the \$1.<sup>25</sup> you paid. Was not this an imposition? If you send anything more by Express, please enquire about this. I wrote to the Agent asking an explanation but received no answer.

As I have nothing more to say, and no letters to answer, I will close.

Your affectionate brother  
Harry.

P.S. I have plenty of paper &c. in my trunk, so not send more. Could you give Magelline and Sam Curtis letters to Sister Mary, Bros. William and Frank? Magge you know is my intimate friend. Frank would like Tom and be of great use to him in directing him how best to study. They would like Maggy in England.

Affectionately  
H. R.

Letter for Sister Mary enclosed.





July 18<sup>th</sup> 1862.  
Camp 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

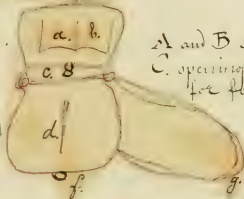
Dear John.

I send my trunk to father to-day by Express, I probably cannot prepare it, so you can pass the Express there and charge it to my account. I have have my Knife in the trunk taken to Bradford and put in perfect order. It needs 2 new blades, and the saw sharpener and made to open more in the teeth so as not to bind.

Will you please buy for me a hammock like the one I started with. It should be made very strong and of good leather. Get the Kind of this shape when shut up. It opens at the bottom and fastens with a strap.



When open this is the shape.



A and B small pockets  
C. opening to large lined pocket for food

D. a split opening to a pocket not lined.

E strap F buckle G strap to go over the neck.

They are made of curried leather generally. They should be water proof. The reason the open at the bottom is to avoid the water leaking in. No matter if the arrangements are not exactly as I have drawn it. It costs about \$3.- and may be bought best at Richmond.



Remond Row, or Baker's Court Street. Get a good one and a stone  
one. Also please send me a small metal soap box to put in a cake  
of soap. I have sent back your English "A. R." bag for sponge. This  
hot weather here has caused the rubber to melt and become sticky. I  
am very sorry but fear it is ruined. Please send me a small rubber  
bag for soap. If you would attend to these things and send them on  
to me I should be greatly obliged. Send them by Adams' Express.  
I have no news to tell you. We are perfectly quiet. What do you  
think of that Senator's abuse of Mr. Clellan?

Love to all. I shall write to Mary Ann and answer her letter  
very soon.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment, Harrison's  
Landings, July 18<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I have just received yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> with the map and Mary Ann's of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

I am very much obliged indeed for the map. It is of a very convenient size and I should think very accurate. I am glad the watch &c. has come safely. You might have a crystal put on and use the watch.

I am glad you have sold the boat. A boat is a great trouble to anyone but a boating man who can take care of her himself. The price is not bad considering the time and the age of the boat. The money is rather not mine.

I do not feel sure that it would be well to draft. I rather think not. Better enlist men for one or two years. We have called for 300,000 men. We don't really need more than 100,000 at any rate now. I go in for a heavy bounty rather than a draft. States, Cities and Towns pay extra bounties and feel an interest to give at least their quota without a draft. I hope Massachusetts will be up to the mark. Can any one Regiment be officered by Gentlemen? I hope so but have not the least confidence in Governor Andrew. He has done so much harm to Mass. Regiments as any living man. A Regiment officered by young Gentlemen can be made efficient in half the time a Company



Regiment in it. I hope the Regiment now in service will be at least partially filled as well as new recruits.

Henry has gone. He was very sorry to leave me, but it is best he should go. He got to think someone intended to insult and abuse him and resented every word almost and would have got into a great trouble. But he was no account so I let him go. Henry was partly of Indian blood and I think his Indian traits are too prominent. I have a man from the Company at present but may get a better one if I can see a good one. Henry will probably go to Boston. I paid him up in full of everything before he left.

Enclosed letter for the Doctor.

Yours affectionate brother  
Henry.






Camp 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Harrison's  
Landing, Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 1862.

My dear John.

I have not received any letters from home by to-day's mail, but I see by the papers that Bartlett, Herbert and I have our regrees. I am very glad indeed for this. I have no doubt you have seen to it all. Commencement seems to have gone off well. I hope you were there. I have sent the key to my trunk to Father in a letter and was much surprised yesterday P.M. when my trunk was brought back, the Express Agent refusing to take any goods from this place. They say they are too overwhelmed with business coming to us, that they can make no arrangements to take anything from us. I shall probably even have a chance to send it by a private way.

I wrote yesterday asking you to get me a haversack &c. I have also sent on an India Rubber water pail. They are made to roll up, and are very light. They are of this shape very flat like a basin  and easy to wash in. They hold about 3 quarts and are very light. Can probably be bought at Ellis's, 10th St. on South Side of Brimfield St. & No. 100. All quiet. Weather hot.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, near Harrison's  
Landings, Va. July 23<sup>d</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I have not had a letter from you for several days. But the  
Advertiser come regularly, and yesterday I received a box & box  
Express containing the articles I wrote for, for the use of our units, to wit:  
1 ham - 1 tongue - 1 cut fish - much well, I suppose, 1 salmon - 1 box herring  
- 1 can coffee, 1 can preserved milk - 2 parake biscuits - 1 box yeast por-  
- - 1 bottle lemon Syrup. I think this was all. These are very nice  
and I thank you very much for getting them for me. I do not remember  
that I wrote for herring and Lemon Syrup, but at any rate these are  
very nice and very much wanted. The milk, I am sorry to say, was  
not good. I do not know whether the hot weather had spoiled it, or  
whether all "preserved" or "condensed" milk is bad. The old fashioned  
"solidified" milk is, I think the only kind worth having. I am getting  
to distrust all of the sealed up preparations for drinking. Is there not  
some way of putting up common fresh milk, so that it will keep in  
bottles? I think I have heard of it somewhere. If you happen to  
come across any, please send some, if you have a chance. I hear,  
however, that the Government intend to stop Adams & Co from bringing  
on more boxes. I do not know what can be the reason of this. Is it possible  
we are to leave this position?



have found it impossible to send on my letter. Still I must meet  
with somebody any day who would take it. Please let me know  
the price of each article of the bundle is, so that I may charge it  
to the proper.

Hallowell Ned, Company I have lately returned and brought some  
very fine Brandy, very old and Choice and he most kindly gave me a  
bottle saying that the Cham Cordial I once gave him just before the battle  
of the Clouds, saved his life. I know it did him a great deal of good, as  
it always does, and it enabled him to go through with that trying day. I  
shall keep this brandy carefully in case of sickness or exposure. I have  
received 2 dozens of Claret from some unknown friend in New York,  
a few days ago. It was merely directed to him and sent by Express.  
Very nice, was it not? He is very liberal with it. I have also received  
a tremendous box perfectly filled with good things, from some of his Gen-  
tlemen friends. Of course there was an abundance of brandy &c., and all  
of the best. It is very convenient to meet with such a man. In  
fact the camp is full of flowers of all kinds now.

We had a grand Review of Sumner's corps yesterday, perhaps  
10,000 men. It must have been very fine to the Generals, but <sup>it was</sup> very  
lonesome to us. I would very much have liked to have had you see it.  
The finest review of troops I ever saw however, was the battle of  
Malvern Hill. I suppose 100,000 men were then in view, combining  
the Rebels. It was a magnificent spectacle.



In hearing more about the recent battle, I find that our fight at Nelson's Farm was the left, or perhaps center of the 1st Army battle, not the right, as I had thought. We were marched to the right in the morning and only held in reserve. Then in the afternoon the attack was pushed along, attempting to cut us off from the river.

Our Regiment has got a splendid reputation in the Army. We do not care at all what the news papers say about others. Some of the Officers have seen the official account from Europe, and they say we are spoken of most particularly and honorably. When our Regiment advanced alone at Nelson's Farm Sumner followed us half way, and it must have been a critical moment, indeed, when the Commander of a Corps takes the personal direction of a single Regiment in a battle. Our reputation among other Regiments is really most flattering.

Our animal pickles &c. have arrived and been distributed by Col. <sup>W. H. C.</sup> I have some rumors about our new Regiment. I hear that Col. Lee may resign, and that Major Rogers will be appointed Colonel. Of course Colonel Lee could not stand this, and if he leaves, a great many good officers will leave with him. I also hear that Captains Campbell and Shepard may receive Majorities in the New Regiments, and so leave us. Both are pleasant in their way, but neither good officers. Campbell has for a long time been half sick and lost all the bone out of his back. If he ever had any he thinks we are going to the devil. Rebels will beat us, &c. &c. Campbell is utterly wanting in that hopeful reliance and calm and persistent





admiration which distinguishes Abbott, for instance. He is a brave  
brave in battle but has a soft heart. I would not give much  
for such a soldier in times of disappointment like that we have just been  
through with. If Fendall and Shepard go, we shall have Abbott and  
Whittier as Captains, which will be a great improvement. I hope the Governor  
will not again appoint Sergeants without consulting Col. Jeffrey. You know  
he did appoint <sup>Frederick</sup> Boushelle and Kirschauer there. Boushelle is very good on  
dull &c. Kirschauer is a miserable Officer, good for nothing, especially  
in battle.

We tried the Salmon and Trout and find them most excellent.  
Siccards very nice, too. Many send kindest regards. So does Murphy.  
He took a great fancy to you in Camp Porter, and desires particularly  
to be remembered. So do many others. Did you ever receive anything  
on my account from C. D. Porter? I left him some coal and several  
things and asked him to dispose of <sup>them</sup> for me.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment near Harris-  
son's Landing, Va. July 28<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dear John.

I have just received yours and Mother's of the 20<sup>th</sup> yesterday.  
I received "Barchester answers". Much obliged for getting this book  
and the other things you have sent on by Express. I do not need religious  
books now, as I had 2 volumes Sermons in my trunk. I write for various  
things as I need them, and leave to your discretion how and when to send  
them. I have now a great abundance of writing paper &c. You can  
perhaps send in the Rubber coat by Richard. Can you send a bottle of  
Pearl Eucal? It is invaluable here, for it is next to impossible to keep  
clear of a slight diarrhoea in this climate. Nothing painful or serious,  
but troublesome. I shall always value a bottle of Eucal above any-  
thing else of the kind.

Sir. Col. Ritchie was here to day on Government business. Do  
not tell this which I now write.

We are secretly preparing for some movement. Probably we shall  
go to Fort Monroe. What next, I do not know. I have this secret  
from a good authority. You must not whisper it. The Artillery Officers  
and Hospitals are secretly preparing for a move. Probably when the news  
comes out you will hear we are to advance, but I think this is to cover a  
retreat. Can we be all going to Fort Pope? Now this is strictly secret.



Keep your eyes open and do not send things to me after you have  
have moved. I think there is little danger from the Rebels here.  
Please ask Mother to send me 3 or 4 sewing machines and a few books  
just by mail.

Let son on Stone, thank him most kindly for the flowers &c. and tell  
him my love. I shall enjoy reading the Oration &c. you made. Mother  
and others have kindest regards. Everything continues quiet here.

It is very foolish to think that digging trenches tired me out  
and wore them out. The work was very light and only about 2 days a  
week ever and did the man good. They also worked slowly and rested  
between reliefs.

There is a good deal of low sickness still in camp but very little  
dangerous. Less barrel arrived here. Your list of prices.  
Love affectionate brother



31<sup>st</sup> July 1862

23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment California Infantry

Dear John

I have no letters to answer from anybody. We to sail here. Yesterday we were ordered to prepare 5 days rations and be ready to march. To-day this order is countermanded. I heard that there was some fear that Rebel gunboats might come down, and this order was in case anything should happen unfavorably. I do not know anything more, but on the whole feel my suppositions are early more confirmed. 18 very heavy guns were at the landing yesterday in position, pointing up the river.

I am going to trouble you now. I wish you would send me 1 or 2 quarts of Chlorine bitter etc. I wish to have it for our Mef. McCoy and Sanders have provided Claret, and I wish to do my share. This will be very little trouble to you. Only leave my address at a respectable Grocer's, and he will box it up and forward it immediately. Please send a good quality. It is not expensive. I suppose you have still a considerable balance in my name in your hands. I cannot write till you send me my accounts. We ought to be paid every day now, and then I shall send about \$100. more. Let me have also a bottle of Cherry Brandy or Dark Brandy, just time now when we are so much in need of a bottle of Remy Martin. And Bullman's light out some, and it is very nice and very wholesome for this climate. I think the





Bitter ale will be particularly wholesome. One needs tonic and abstemious  
drink about now. Is there not some kind of bitter one can command  
as a luxury as well as wholesome drink? I would it be like some  
bitters such as the maple cocktails of off command and a bottle of single  
bitters. I always think of 2 a dog. Things when I begin to write for  
me but I dare say you can let everything at one place and march step in  
and leave the order. I hope you will get a servant soon. To know  
one's with Mac, cooking well is not it's important a requirement—  
for my servant. I hope you liked Elaine. Tell me exact-  
ly where you want.

Love to all.

Elizabeth  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> <sup>th</sup> Regiment ... Harrison's  
Landing, Va. August 3<sup>d</sup> 1862 (Sunday)

My dear John.

I received your most interesting letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. and am greatly obliged to you for it. I thought to have that you have so much to do and hope your clients do not leave you unprotected. The green willow I shall not wear as I have already plenty here. I forgot to tell you more. Much obliged for the German ... yesterday. Please thank Mother and Cousin Kitty for them. I shall read them with great interest. The yeast powder was for the mass, like the rest. As to my servant, I need him very much and shall not know what to do if we march soon. Better advertise in the Journal (not Herald, I think) without stating terms.

I am very much interested at Henry's writing to you for money. I paid him up in full for everything and always was very liberal with him, giving him clothes &c. I always had perfect faith in his honesty, but am surprised he should try to get any money from me. He had \$55 from me when he started. Of he comes out, be careful of him for I might possibly be deceived. He is fond of money. In my trunk is the prayer book Mother gave him. He asked me to send it home for him in the trunk and said he would call for it.

I hardly think Col. Lee will resign but I fear he will not.



be fit one to take command of a Regiment in active service. I have written 3 times to Herbert one of Sturgis' Cooper, Esq., Col. 1st Regt., and one Reed and W. Boston. I hope he has got them all.

I am much pleased with your selection of Mary Anne's present, and she seems delighted. Very much obliged to you for your trouble in getting the books.

Brother Norton and the A.A. all my memories of pleasant times. I see the shadowy forms and can hardly believe that those happy days and scenes have gone for ever and that our class has passed away from Harvard, and their places are filled by other men. If you see Brother Norton, please give him my kindest regards and my best wishes for his health, prosperity and happiness.

I am delighted you intend going to Lenox. I hear it is a beautiful place. You may meet the Giddens there, and that will be very pleasant for you. Go by all means. I wish Drumpcott is dull. Go anywhere for a trip. It does one so much good to make a short pleasure trip. As to books, I have only read of Dickens's 'Pickwick', 'David Copperfield' and some others. I don't read any of Dickens. I can generally borrow the latest novels here. I have not read 'Mill on the Flood', or any of Thackeray's but 'Pendennis' and 'Vanity Fair'. Can you send the whole or part of Scott's 'Poetical Works'? I have not read also 'Riverside' and 'Castle Dangerous', 'Peril of the Oak' and many others, and should like very much to read 'Kenilworth', 'Ivanhoe', 'Riverside', 'The Sorcerer', etc.



10  
Hence send me Cameron's Tactics 1 vol. \$1.<sup>25</sup>). I lost mine in  
the retreat. Tell some of them at Cambridge to send me a few pieces  
of Fitch and I will be happy. The poor little thing, I'm sorry to say,  
is sick here and it is worth while to make a trial of a small vegetable  
garden.

Go to the battle. There were 5 guns & our advantage and incredible  
cannon perhaps more frequent. The other Regiments followed us up &  
found us on right and left. We marched first. The Michigan came  
up behind us and turned on our right before we reached the first position.  
I saw we were beat down in the fight.

I begin to think now that it would be well with impossible to draw all  
this army safely. But as you see, we must cross at Newburgh  
and then depart for Fort Monroe under the cloud of a sudden dash and  
make a brilliant thing of it, too. I hardly think the Rebels will make  
a real attempt to destroy us here. They are sure glad to have 20,000  
men shut up here.

I see exactly how you feel about McClellan but for myself, I desire  
to postpone my judgment. I do not feel I have seen enough yet. I earnestly  
hope something brilliant will soon be done to relieve the country. General Dyer  
has I believe not returned. Mr. Brown returns to the Regiment to-day as  
Adjutant. 20 recruits have joined us. Our Company has one.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry





Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment near  
Winn's Station, Va. 2<sup>d</sup> Div.  
August 8<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I received last evening your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup>. I had then already  
written to Father giving an account of our late expedition to Lake Hill.  
All has been quiet since.

I see, as you say, that it was openly discussed whether or not the  
Army was to stay here, but the private information I got was through Capt.  
Macy who had got a letter from Lee Barnes. I know Lee Barnes & know  
Wilson, Sumner and other great men of that set in Washington, and he said  
that the Army was to be ordered back to Fort Monroe. General Meade  
has taken command since and plans may be altered. I do not of course  
wonder at this.

I am rejoiced beyond measure that you have got me in demand.  
I shall need one very much if we march, and I have no doubt your  
choice has been a good one. I repeat him over say, I hope Abbott  
Rich. I would be glad to have him come on with them.

I shall be delighted to get the Corcoran and indeed everything you  
may send. As to sending home &c. now, I really think you would be  
quite safe in doing so. I have now about made up my mind that we  
are to stay here. If, however, we move to the R.R. station



and would reach me safely there. I wrote to you about some ale, &c. I am perfectly willing to risk this, or send it if convenient, without delay. If English Ale should be in better bottles &c. and so safe perhaps you had better get that.

I am astonished at your fears. We feel perfectly secure here, and it is the general belief, so far as I can discover, that our position is impregnable. It could only be taken by a siege which would employ 150,000 men for a long time, and which the Rebels could not possibly support so far from Richmond. The only cause for anxiety is the possible obstruction of the river, and I have no doubt our naval officers are alive to their duty there. Our Army was never more effective than it is now, and would fight magnificently. The lack of confidence in Mc. Clellan seems to exist in direct ratio to the distance: We have no fears here, and this last movement has given additional confidence.

I am very glad that Curtis and Nagy have letters.

I am not astonished at Mr. Willard's going, but wish he could be Major as soon as his 100 men have enlisted. He would make a great Major, and any Colonel would be delighted to get him. He would do plenty of work and his great personal energy would keep others well up to the mark. He is indeed an Officer of the old New England stamp. I am very much obliged to him for indicating me to enter my Company. Mr. Willard of course could not possibly come into this Regiment as a Captain. Such appointments are when



mine. I have heard nothing more about Capt. Shaper's promotion  
to another Regiment.

Capt. Kimblett and Capt. Corbet, and Lieut. Rice all have no  
time to recruit their health, so we are dreadfully short of Officers.  
Major Revere and Lieut. Perkins are ill. As for me: I  
was never better, and the late marches have done me good.

You have probably seen in the paper that Herbert and Davis  
are promoted. I am very glad for both. Both are well worthy and  
excellent Officers. Davis was educated in a military school  
in Germany, and was an Officer in the regular Army there, and has  
been with us through all the late battles &c. and well deserves promotion.  
You know how much of a friend I am to Herbert, and still you  
knew that I have not a particle of envy at his promotion, and shall  
not have said I cannot but think that in strict justice, the promotions  
should be given to those who have borne the burden and heat of the day.  
Now it is very unfortunate for a young Officer to be sick and be obliged  
to be absent from battles and all the tremendous labors and sufferings  
of the retreat, and the heat and work of this last month here, but it is  
his misfortune, and certainly it seems to me that those whose health  
did hold out and who really did stand the duty and bear the dangers of  
battle are rightly entitled to the command. Now the only ground of  
seniority Herbert has over me, was that he was his commission  
and went to Camp Decatur 20 days before I did. Both of our



Commissions are of the same date. Now I did duty from about  
June 15<sup>th</sup> till July 1<sup>st</sup> - all through the retreat while Herbert was  
barely able to be carried to the rear on horseback and since then  
I have done duty here and been on the late expedition while he has been  
at home. If my real claims are not superior to his I am no  
judge of what a soldier's duty is. Of course it can be said that he  
would have done something had he been there and that an unavoidable  
illness only prevented, but the fact remains that he was not there and I was.

Now perhaps you will not believe me when I say these two  
things 1<sup>st</sup> I honestly think that I deserved the promotion before  
Herbert. 2<sup>nd</sup> that I do not feel the least envy towards him. Yet this  
is true. I really care nothing for the name and for advancement  
&c. only for the slight additional comforts I should get but you know  
one cannot help looking at such things. Do not I please mention  
this, it is of no importance but I write very fully to you. With the  
single exception of Lieut. Murphy against whom Col. Miller has a  
spite, I have done duty as a Lieutenant in this Regiment longer than  
any Lieutenant whose Commission dated the same or mine. This  
includes Sander, Curtis, Herbert and Patton. Well let the matter  
drop.

I was speaking to Mr. Brown the other day about the possibility  
of getting some Champagne. He and Sander would like to join with me  
and get a basket. Now could you speak to Mr. Andrews? He





would to have some most excellent at \$10.- to \$12.- a basket. I would  
be boxed eight over and I think we do some run safely, and only cost  
us perhaps \$1.<sup>00</sup> per bottle when here. If it is not too much trouble  
please send me a basket by Adams' Express. If, however, you feel  
quite sure that movements are taking place and that it would be a  
long time before we should get it, do not send. I leave it to you. If  
it should be troublesome to you do not mind about it. I prefer d. Mc-  
Andrews Champagne because it is good and cheap. Use your own judgment.

We are to be paid off today and I shall probably enclose a draft for  
\$100.-. This makes in all \$420.- I shall have sent home, more than  
enough I should think, to cover all expenses, is it not so? Do not  
let me ever over-run. The India Rubber paid for came all right.  
The bags are much too small for a sponge. Can you not send an  
Oil Silk bag large enough for my sponge?

I prefer to write more about the Calvin Mill affair till  
I see the newspaper accounts.

I shall try again to send the trunk to-day. Write soon.

Ever your affectionate brother.  
Henry.



Long Street, Richmond, Va.  
Harrison's Landing, Va.

August 10<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I received yesterday by mail your letter giving me a list of articles sent in the two boxes to me. Lieutenants Abbott, Curtis and Wilkins arrived yesterday and with them my new servant James, whom I like so far very much. I am indeed delighted to read over the long list of good things that you have sent. Abbott says that it would be impossible for him to carry them with him all the way, and so left them to come on by Express, and I expect to get them to-morrow.

Please let me know what things are presents and what are charged to me, and the prices of the latter. When the boxes arrive I shall answer fully and shall take the first opportunity to thank Mr. Offens for his kind and most acceptable present.

When I look over the list I cannot but think that my order for Champagne was almost superfluous, but as I shall probably get only 2 or 3 bottles of it, I will not countermand it. I often fear that I trouble you greatly about such things, but we all have had our mercy on friends at home, and others are now receiving quantities of good things.

Arthur wrote some time ago that he had sent to me \$10.-worth of good things by the "American Tract Society". Did he send this



to me or for me to distribute to the Regiment? And were the Quacks  
Dr., or Fellows &c. such as the Quack Society sent to the Regiment?  
Rather to me, specially and I did not make a distance what he sent and  
for whom? I have not received it yet.

We now get plenty of vegetables here, onions and potatoes: and  
of late even turnips. I eat hardly any meat, the vegetables being still  
such a luxury to me that I cannot but make my dinner of them. On  
the whole we have plenty of good food. Still the delicious contents  
of the boxes will be no welcome no more, and I shall enjoy every article.  
Especially vinegar is especially nice, and very good for the heart.  
The liberal supply of Cordial will be indeed appreciated. Not a drop  
shall be wasted. Be assured that everything sent is heartily enjoyed  
and does a great deal to help us keep up our spirits in this rather trying  
climate.

I am delighted to see Abbott back and looking so well, but I  
am very sorry to hear from him of the gloomy and despairing feelings at  
home. He said he was glad to get away, and into a place where people  
were cheerful and hopeful. I am astonished at the fears of people at home.  
We have none here. Our Army is in splendid fighting trim and ready  
for anything. As to an evacuation, the more I look about the more  
evidence I see that we are not to move. We are safe and comfortable  
here, and if well handled can oblige the Rebels to keep large forces at  
Petersburg, Richmond and Malvern Hill, and be always ready



for a more and a blow. We have no idea of giving up and if the people at home could only come out and see the Army, they would hurry to enlist. It is to be in time to see the last struggles of the Rebellion.

Some of our men have just got back from Richmond where they were prisoners. I gather from what they say that the Rebellion is as good as gone now. They met with Union people in plenty. — We should snatch a little United States flag from them. — We should wave it at them. The people in the streets showed every mark of sympathy. The Rebels were downhearted and openly said that everything was going to ruin, that they were sick of the war, that they were forced into it, and would desert at the first opportunity. They have no tea, sugar and salt in the ration. — They cursed Jefferson Davis and said he was wretched lest he should escape and leave Richmond to its fate. In short their immense Army is miserably fed miserably equipped, and full of dissension, faction and distrust. And besides it is impossible that it can be supported much longer. Our United States Notes were eagerly taken at \$9.- for a \$5.-greenback, and gold for double its worth. — All these seceding States passed nominally at par in the streets. One of my men paid a quarter of a dollar for an onion, — rice miserably poor for 50 Cents each, Coffee \$1.- a pound, &c. &c.

Our Army is healthy, well fed and confident. I fully believe that we shall utterly crush the Rebellion before cold weather. We only want the hearty, hopeful support of our friends at home. Our Army





is tolerable in every respect. I am at present speaking the bodies  
beaten. The Rebel Army is just such an one as one would expect  
= including what he utterly disorganized and cut to pieces. To say more  
is against it. It is manoeuvring it certainly will get confused and I  
repeat, I fully believe that with the blessing of God we shall destroy  
them yet. Do not be dispirited. We are ready here. Only our  
old grumblers - Remondt and Ingham are here. They are both  
trying all they can to get home on a sick leave but cannot make it  
quite go. If they do get home they may give a useful account -  
learn from their own recent imaginings, but do not believe them.  
The Army is all right. Send out a few more men and have a big  
reserve and then we will take Richmond and close up the account.

Ensigns Mallowell, Sheppard, Macy and many others  
constantly send kindest regards to you. He first said he intended  
to write very soon to you. Good bye! I hope you enjoyed  
the fishing excursion.

Your affectionate brother

Henry



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment near Harrison's  
Landing Va. Thursday morning  
(O. R.) August 14<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I did not think I should be able to answer your letter from this camp for we have been under marching orders since Monday, and everything packed up but still there is no sign of a move, and I hear that only the heavy Artillery has embarked.

We have just heard of the battle with Pope, but cannot see much of a victory in it. Milton has seen a Richmond paper which acknowledges a decided reverse to the Rebels. We have heard of the death of Captains Abbott, Russell and Goodwin. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Richmond paper has Russell's name among the prisoners, and Abbott's name is not in the corrected list so we hope for "2 it's" sake he is not hurt. Poor Abbott does not know what to believe, and of course we all are anxious to get true accounts and know the worst.

Major Ferebee is, as you know, very ill, and has gone home. He has received an appointment on Sutter's staff, and will leave the Regiment. Adjutant Pierce is quite ill with inflammation of the bowels. Capt. Corbet and Lieutenants Whittier and Thayer, and Perkins, are all ill with this disease which is very common now. Dr. Hayward says Cider is the best thing for prevention and cure,



and should be drunk freely in this climate. So if you can, or  
any advice to the Sanitary Commission or Anti-Slavery Society, tell them  
to send Cider for the jaundice patients. James did not tell me he  
had received \$2.00 from you. Did he understand it was a present or  
an advance on his wages?

I am glad you have seen Henry, and that he is well. He is  
very apt to get into trouble, but I am very sorry for him, and especially  
for his loss of his money. Perhaps you can help him to get a price.  
I fear I shall not be able to raise my radishes now, but if I had  
had them at first I might have had quite a crop.

I am very glad you are going to Leamington, and that you will  
meet the Cardinals there. Please give my very kindest regards and res-  
pects to Mr. and Mrs. Thorne and their family.

Welch ('50) is now here as a private, and goes about and  
comes the heavy respectful and salutes and tries to make himself a  
most conspicuous private, but it is impossible for any of us to treat him  
personally as a private. He is a splendid fellow, and really tries to  
do everything a private should do, and rather avoids the Officers and  
will not go with them and be treated as one of them. I think however,  
he is right. He has come as a private and he means to be a real  
private, and do a real soldier's duty. He is in Company I. When we  
have 2 other recruits, both in some sense Gentlemen. One was a  
Clock, and robbed his employer and ran away with some wire, but



was taken and imprisoned. Now he is released to enlist. Your  
account of the fishing excursion and the party at the Ridges quite  
brings me back to Swampscott. Tell me what the men are doing  
out there? I am very glad to hear of Ch<sup>l</sup> Codman's splendid  
position. I think he will make a most excellent Colonel. Gordon  
is hardly strong enough, but very likely the 9 months men will not  
get farther than Washington and will see no service. MacArthur I re-  
member well. I was introduced to his brother by Patten and found him a  
most agreeable, gentlemanly man. I fear there is not the best chance for  
him in this Regiment.

There was no regular column of Regiments at the battle, but each  
Regiment as it came up was pushed forward, and we came first. We  
stopped and opened fire twice and each time fired 15 or 20 minutes, so there  
was plenty of time for other Regiments to come up.

My Company is now quite full again. Many have returned from  
Hospital and I from Richmond. Some have returned who left us for the  
General Hospital at Fort Town. We can't see out 33. No more actions.

As to our moving, everybody is entirely ignorant of what Mr. Meade's  
plans are. No one can even conjecture. Perhaps we shall move right  
on Richmond, perhaps to the Rappahannock and perhaps on Petersburg.  
At any rate all is quiet now and no one excited or anxious. If we  
go down the Peninsula part of the Army will march with the trains. We  
are ready for anything. Good bye! Love to all. Shall





Try to write again soon, but don't be anxious if you do not get letters, for some  
times one cannot get a chance to write for several days.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Newport -  
News, Va. August 23<sup>d</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I have just written to Father an account of our march to this place and will let the boys with a repetition of what you have no doubt heard.

Thank you for the books. I shall greatly enjoy to read "Black House" tactics all right. James I find is strong in writing, but stupid in words. Kemmer, I think he will do, for he works well. We lost my new Indian Rubber paid in the march. Will you please buy me another just like that one, and send it on as soon as convenient, either by Express or better still by some Officer or man coming out to the Regiment. I have heard at the same time I order a nice soap, of a size small enough for my soap case.

I shall send home by Express as soon as possible a parcel containing my old blouse, which I have worn steadily since a few days before the battle of Fair Oaks. The shoulder straps and buttons I have worn throughout the entire campaign, and I would like to keep them. Please buy the old Black House aside just as it is. I also send a Vespene case I do not need, 2 volumes "Sarchester Towers" and some private papers for Mary Ann to put away. You will find an old hand paper book I wore the strings, which I picked up near Charles City Court House. I may send some thing else which I will write you about. I have sent home my trunk



in the day by mail to Father. I am of the firm opinion that I  
must be able to do this thing. I am of the firm opinion that I have got a thin  
sack coat here and need three shags. I have no more to tell you.

I have just heard a report that we go to New Orleans! I do not believe  
it of course. It is almost dead here. I expect no more news from  
from the English. Weather cool and good with water boiling.

How awfully the 2<sup>d</sup> has suffered! I can hardly believe that  
Abbott is gone, and Stephen Perkins, too. You will feel the latter loss  
particularly.

Allice and me a charming brush. I left a letter. In the  
digging case I send home is a nail brush belonging to my English digging  
case, which please keep.

Good-bye!

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

Henry, Stephen, Mallon, and others send kind regards. Please  
send me a few stamps.

H. C. C.



Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Regiment, Newport—  
Nov. 12. Sunday, Nov. 24. 80.

My dear John.

I wrote to you and to Father yesterday, and have nothing more to tell you of particular interest. Several whole corps are ordered to be ready for embarkation and we expect to be off to-morrow or the next day. Our destination is still a secret, but the rumor of our going to some N. H. port goes around. Officers are ordered to provide 10 days rations, rather a large quantity to last so much for a trip to Foreign Parts. I have heard we are going to South America.

I shall send home a box containing the things I spoke of in my last letter, among besides, my revolver &c. I find this one rather too large and heavy to march with and should prefer a smaller one. I send with it some ammunition and caps. Please take the revolver John & send it gone from the case, and buy a small holster to fit it and send it to me together with 500 caps of fixed ammunition to fit, and a small box &c. &c. Perhaps the caps and ammunition I send home will fit the smaller pistol. Tell Father these are my wants, & have a man returning to the Regiment. I have just received notice that we shall probably move to-day, but I do not think we shall. There is always great delay. My foot is much better and I hope will soon be quite well.

I was very sorry and very much distressed to see an extract





show me of my letter in the collection. I did not see the sheet it came  
for putting it in. I have not heard from you why you did not put it in.

I thought I had distinctly expressed my wish that letters to be  
my letter should only be put in to relieve anxiety of friends in future  
after a battle.

<sup>My</sup> We have to-day received an abundant supply of pencils and ink  
from the Rev. Mr. [?] and are putting on them. We will have. Love  
to all. I may not be able to write for some days.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regt. 3 miles South of  
Alexandria, Va. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 1862  
G. F. M.

My dear John.

I wrote to Father when we arrived at Alexandria in the Steamer  
"Atlantic", Capt. Edridge. We marched through the town and camped  
for the night on a beautiful slope, with many Remnants of our Division  
near us. Alexandria is quite a city and has many quite fine houses, and  
altogether looks busy and rather prosperous. The country here is hilly, and  
looks quite fertile.

This morning we had orders to march at 9, but they were counter-  
manded, and we are here still. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> New York  
Divisions have gone to reinforce the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps,  
and I hear that the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> are to do like duty for the Chain Bridge  
Forts. This report is from good authority and seems very likely, no part  
of the Division are already gone. Of course we may go out to the front  
but on the whole I think it more probable we are to be stationed in the  
Forts. Of course we are all glad to get a little rest, and enjoy the comforts  
one can get near a great city, but I think we should all be sorry to be  
permanently detached from the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps and leave  
Command. Just now when such great events seem to be at hand, I think  
we are such old soldiers now that we take anything that comes, and



are glad for its advantages whatever they are. Anyhow we may get  
orders which will settle the question.

We had a delightful voyage up, and with good luck. The St. Louis  
arrived happily close to us who have so often so long in the open air. The  
inimitable Anonymous signed up into a fight on the 21st. The  
squad of the 50<sup>th</sup> was unusually brave in attempting to quell it. No other  
event of interest occurred.

I am perfectly well, and my last is about as better. I now wear my  
shoes and walk a little. If we march I shall ride. I have no more to  
tell you at all. I cannot send home the bone pistol to you, as it is not allowed  
to be sent by post. I shall try to send it by a private hand.

James does as well as he can I suppose, but is dreadfully stupid.  
I cannot trust the least thing to him. If ever you talk in with a  
man, you must see him in. For instance, in Albert's time when we  
were in Cambridge, at Mrs. Humphreys's, say your eye on him, and I  
will get rid of him. James means well, but I would give nothing  
for a really good servant.

About 75 recruits just come.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.



Camp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Alexandria  
Va. September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1862.

My Dear John.

I have just received from the post a letter, the paid, postage, stamps, and mailing blank for all of which I am very much obliged. Col. Lee looks very well and so does the Major. The Colonel asked me to mention to you that he arrived here last night in safety and well, and requests you to send word to Mrs. Lee and the family.

I think we shall move toward Chain Bridge and stay there for some time. All quiet now. I believe I never acknowledged the receipt of the following letters: From Father August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; Mary Ellen 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and some of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the one to John.

We thank all. In answer to your question Sedgwick sent word to Col. Veltre that he might want an Officer for 2 or 3 days, and asked if he could send one in case he should need him. Col. Veltre said he could spare one - and asked me if I would go. I said I would but was never called for. Sedgwick had before. I was sick. I was better but both were sick. Whittier is new on his staff. I was detailed to command Company H, but now Father has returned and resumed command, and I am still in L. James does pretty well, but do keep a look out for a really good man. Thought to carry a horse load and willings are where Woodruff are absolutely necessary. Love





75 accounts joined as but were contained, and had to be sent to the rear when we advanced.

I feel very sorry to trouble you so much in getting things for me, but you are my only point of contact to get a house, parlor, kitchen, bath room, and everything else, including butcher, baker and tailor, and all this has to be carried in on my back to be of use to me at the right time. And so I have to be very particular to have good articles and of the lightest materials. You would think it silly of me to give such particular directions about small things, but remember that to have a couple of extra bolts in the wrong place in a tent may make me wet to the skin for 24 hours, instead of keeping me dry, and a slight alteration of the shape of a camp stool may, out in a howling and disagreeable way, instead of leaving me perfectly comfortable. Now I wish to be perfectly prepared for active operations immediately, and therefore with much thought I have determined on what I want, and ask you to see to the procuring of the same, in accordance with the enclosed directions. I want the following articles:

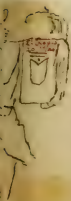
Pair of Boots. Give me a perfect pair of Oxfords, such as I can have, and probably has no measure yet. Those shoes were not loose and comfortable, and very long, exactly as I want the boots. They must not be noisy, even when wet. Please give a pair as light as possible, not of excessive thick sole, but of the leather best calculated to keep one warm. Perhaps it would be well to have Cork holes put in (not inside Cork) also covered with Lamb's wool. I think be done at the same



which much to the ... large in the calf. ... is very large. Let no expense be incurred for ornament and more be spared for strength and durability. As they are to be worn in rain and mud, let the leathers be very stiff. Should Rice not have the measure, perhaps Rogers has (who made the Quins about you sent me). But let Rogers make them a little wider than the Quins. Rogers has my measure in Cambridge, but if he makes them, tell him to make them large. I prefer Rice.

2<sup>d</sup> A Knapsack. Please call at Roulston's (Grand Street and near Kensington) and exactly like the one he made lately for Lind. Withins and Herbert Moore, with this alteration: instead of side straps for shoes, let there be on each side a small pocket, large enough for a spoon, for instance, fastened by a lappet and button or buckle. Let the Knapsack be made as light as possible, and of the very best material. Its cost is, I believe, \$4. I will give you a little representation of the pockets I wish. We will understand what I want, for Withins' is my model. I wish to have "Lind. Ropes, 20<sup>th</sup> Mass." distinctly marked in small letters in white print, just above or under the left hand pocket, as I have represented. This is very necessary. Withins' had a little inside pouch or pocket for comb, tooth brush &c., and I wish one like this, with a lappet and fastening.

3<sup>d</sup> Wool Blanket. I wish one of some color not very light, blue





preferred. Size regulation about 6 feet by 4. I want a very light  
thin blanket not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  as heavy as the common lined sold.  
Let it be as warm as possible for its weight, and therefore I suppose  
it must be made either of fine wool, or of silk and wool. Do not  
spare expense, but get the greatest amount of warmth and the least  
weight possible.

1<sup>st</sup>. Linen Rubber Blanket. I wish the lightest Rubber that is strong  
enough to bear careful usage. Fulton has an excellent one. Let  
mine be very large, say (if possible) 17 feet by 5, with strong edges,  
and an eyelet hole in each corner, and besides 3 others along  
each long side and 2 along each short side. Let this and the  
wool blanket be marked with my name "A. L. Kope". Do not let  
a lined blanket, only the light "linen rubber" (as I think it is called).

2<sup>nd</sup>. Rubber Pillows. I have lost my old one. Please get a very  
small light one. Let it be marked with my name "A. L. Kope".

3<sup>rd</sup>. A crockery Plate, Cup and saucer. Perhaps this seems to you  
to be very luxuriant, but I assure you to eat or long from tin is  
very tiresome, and a crockery cup is a great luxury. These must be  
very small and light. I should prefer some of that old set which  
you remember I had in Cambridge. The cups were small and the  
material was light. If you buy anything, get it white.

4<sup>th</sup>. A Shelter tent. As this is an article of the very greatest  
importance, I enclose a description.



3<sup>d</sup>. A Lantern (Lamp) (about) Description enclosed.

4<sup>th</sup>. A very small light and sharp Matchet with a little leather case and strap to go over the shoulder. This for James to carry.

This is all, I believe. I really feel ashamed to trouble you to such a fearful extent, but if you were here and could go to the front a week or so with me, I am sure you would appreciate my wants, and see the absolute necessity of everything I have sent for, and thus find me having the best of everything and thus the lightest.

Everything I have written for can be packed in the knapsack, and if possible let it be sent on by some faithful man. If you can find no man, let Owens & Co. take it. One thing Mother can send me, if she pleases, 4 little linen bags like the former ones she sent. If three of these are filled with white sugar and one with coffee, I shall be much obliged.

Another thing: 2 small boxes, tin or pewter, very light, to hold each about 1 gill, for salt and pepper. Not with holes in the top for scattering the contents over the food.

I think everything can be made and sent off in 10 days after you get this, and so in 3 weeks I can get all.

I expect a campaign in Autumn, and I want to be as well protected from wet and cold and as generally comfortable, as possible. I have no news. Very sorry for your eyes. You had better, so to say, not try to enjoy that female society you say you consider so dull.





for a "steady drink".

No more. All steady here; no despairing. We have arrived  
at our "Beres Vedras", and I look forward to our last journey before  
long.

Herbert Macy Mallowell, Abbott, Murphy, Virginia Pitten  
and others desire kindest regards.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

P.S. Black India Rubber for the blanket, unless white is stronger  
or lighter.



Camp on Battle field near Sharpsburg,  
Md., September 20<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I have written to Father giving an account of the late battle. I have received 2 letters from you of the 12<sup>th</sup> one from Mother of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and one from Mary Anne, and one from Father of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. which I have not yet acknowledged.

Yesterday I went over the field, and it was really a most awful sight, the dead were under piles up and lay in rows. The slaughter was more awful than anything I ever read of, for it is not a small field on which the dead lay thickly scattered as if there was a separate fight at that one place, but a vast extent of country several times as large as the Commons where there is no place which you can stand and not see the field black with dead bodies as far the eye can reach. Then the wounded gathered into barns &c. are an awful sight. The Rebels let them lay for 2 days without care, and would not allow our men to either take them off, or dress their wounds, as they lay, although their own men robbed them of everything and often stripped their clothes from their bodies. No description I ever read begins to give me an idea of the slaughter and the horrible sights of this battle-field. We drove them for about 1 1/2 miles, and then they repulsed us from the ravine into which we were too hastily advanced. They



Artillery was by far the heaviest we have ever yet heard of.

The 25<sup>th</sup> has lost about 150 out of about 400, and it more than  
better or better supported its reputation for perfect steadiness. The advance  
of our Division was a splendid sight. I had 2 very narrow escapes.  
The spent ball made a hole in my coat and only scraped the skin  
a little and made me lame for a day. The Cannon ball I saw  
distinctly. It first hit the branch of a tree, glanced, passed between  
my legs slightly, bruising me some and leaving a black mark on  
my pants. It struck the ground behind me and again glanced up  
and smacked the shoulder of Corporal Champion of my Company.  
A great many of our men were killed by the grape shot they piled into  
us from the top of the hill about as far off as from our house to Charlestown.

Well, it is over, and we may not see another such battle for  
many months.

Much obliged to you for your attention to my things. Our recruit  
has not yet come. James is doing better of late and seems capable of  
improvement. I should not take an enlisted man for a servant. Col.  
Lee is well and in command of the Brigade, Genl. Broward of the  
Division, Capt. Dreher of the Regiment. Herbert is all right and unhurt.  
So are all other friends except those I mentioned as wounded. We  
have beaten the enemy badly and thus acknowledge it. I should not won-  
der if the war was now brought to a speedy end.

I have heard that our left was unprotected in consequence of



Genl. French taking a wrong road. He should have been there.

I have received the pistol &c. and have determined to keep John  
Seedlee and send home the heavy one. We have not seen Genl.  
Morse or the 2<sup>d</sup>. They were out some 10 or 12 days. Saw Caspar  
and Forbes of the Cavalry the other day. Murphy and Abbott were  
left sick at Frederick and were not in the battle.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.





Dear John.

I wish to explain to you the triangular end of the tent. It is a triangle divided in the center into 2 rightangled triangles each of a base of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet (because the tent is to stretch 7 feet wide) of a hypotenuse of 6 feet (because the 2 sides together are 12 feet long) and 4 feet 10 in perpendicular because of the other dimensions. But to keep out rain I want a flap 6 inches wide and to fasten this securely there must be 2 sets of tapes or strings, one outside, one inside. Then the ridge pole must have room to come out at the end, and be supported by a fork stuck in the ground, so the tops of these triangles must be cut off a little. The piece of strong canvas will sufficiently cover this opening.

I hope this description is plain, and that it will not trouble you very much.

Robert has seen this and wishes one just like it. Can you order 2? Please do so for him. Better make one first and show it to you. Mall's Milk Street is the best Rubber Store, I think.

Yours

M. R.



Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Maine  
Brights Va. September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I answered your two last letters and have only to tell you that we marched here yesterday and forded the river. Sumner's Corps is here and he in command.

I enclose a letter for Mary Ann. I have sent home by Mr. Bloom, who was kind enough to take charge of it, a bundle containing my heavy revolver, cartridge bag, and ammunition &c., some books I have come with, some private papers, a knife, &c. Please have "Dorchester Towers" bound, if you think it is worth it, and "Black Plaque" too, when I send home the other volumes which Herbert is now reading.

Please have new plates put in the knife and send to me when you have a chance. Let the pistol be cleaned, oiled and put away and the fixed ammunition kept for it. Give the private letters to Mary Ann to put in my box. As I know you like to keep some relics of a battle field, I send a piece of shell and a grape shot I picked up. It will give you some idea of what sort of a buzzing we had about our ears. Please tell me if you ever got my "Buffalo" which I sent home last spring. I have forgotten whether or not it went safely. Please send me by mail \$10. in U. S. ones.



an \$ — in postage stamp change. I have nothing smaller than \$5.-  
and find great trouble in making change. Charge the \$10.- to my  
account. By the way, can you not tell me roughly about how much  
you have charged to me? I feel sure I must have a considerable  
balance on hand, but would very much like to know how much.

It ought to be paid every day now and when we are, I shall send home  
another \$100.- Herbert is very much obliged to you for attending to  
a tent for him. I advised him to wait till mine came, and see how  
he liked it, but he read my description and felt sure it would answer.  
I hope it is of white Rubber, that is if both are equally strong. Very  
likely you will find some light lantern all same which will be quite  
as light and compact as the one I described. If so, buy it instead.

If the tent is what I expect it will be, it will be invaluable. Es-  
pecially at this season, it is important to keep dry at night. The rubber  
coat will be very useful, I know. I hope the boots will not  
give you trouble. If Rice has saved my measure it is all right.  
Do not let the sales-be of extravagant thick'ness, as was formerly  
the fashion for "Army Shoes".

I have not seen the L<sup>d</sup> Olafs. since we were at Rockham,  
but hope, if we are near them again, to get acquainted with Capt. Morse.  
The L<sup>d</sup> is now at Sandusky Rock about 10 miles from here across the river.

I am at present quite lame from a boil which has selected a  
very unfortunate position. It is exactly on the cord or tendon which connects



the extremity of the heel with the calf of the leg. It is very small, however, and will no doubt be well in a couple of days.

You were tell me how business matters and the estates are getting on, and whether the general affairs of the family are in a flourishing state. Please do tell me.

I suppose you now have quite an income from law. Write soon.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

P.S. The Colonel's man, George, desires respects.





Dear 2 miles S. - Beacon  
Bolivar Heights, Va. September 29<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My dear John.

I received your letter (written by Mary Eliza) last evening. I  
am very sorry your eyes are so weak. I know what a hopeless feeling  
one has, when one begins to find out that there is a settled weakness of  
the eyes. I cannot see if everything was doubtful, and you are not sure  
what you are able to do. I hope you are able to read this letter.  
I am going to read it to you, let it be only Mary Eliza, for I shall  
write to you on the next page what I do not wish even you to know.  
I am now with the Colonel, and while he is here, I shall stay and do  
everything for him I can. But he ought to resign immediately. The  
fact is he is completely broken down and is not fit for duty. He has  
now not the chills and fever (not having) the diarrhoea, and a cough.  
It is beautiful weather, but cold at night and I know he suffers from  
it, yet he still keeps about and generally is in good spirits. Should  
we have one week of active service I know he would completely  
break down. You know he is pretty old and not of a very strong constitu-  
tion. He will not hear of getting a leave of absence and says if  
he cannot do full duty, he had better do none and leave the service.  
Now we are quiet and no immediate prospect of an advance.  
We have just been through a short but active campaign, and have



was made, and this is exactly the time for Col. See to resign. There  
would be time to fill his place and arrange things before we are  
again called into the field. He has done his duty well in the Regiment.  
He has been in every battle and escaped unhurt. He would retire  
now most honorably. If he stays and breaks down when we are on  
active service, it may not be so well for him or for us. I write  
this of course for your private eye or ear.

Capt. Leach of Lane's staff, a very able, clear headed  
man is here, and Col. See places great trust in him, and he manages  
Bengal matters almost entirely. He has told me privately that  
he probably will soon get an order to report to Genl. Lane, in Washington,  
and wishes some one to get into the harness here before he leaves.  
He first asked Herbert but he could not leave his Company,  
and then at the Colonel's request he asked me to come to Bengal matters.

Under any other circumstances I should have refused, but while  
I feel I can be of any use to the Colonel I shall remain. I shall  
not leave the old Regiment for any bed of feathers in a stall. I  
intend to stand by the 20<sup>th</sup> as long as we both last, but for the present,  
while Col. See is here, I shall be here.

Do not let all this go far. I write in confidence to you. I  
think Col. See will resign before a month has passed. This is  
only my opinion.

Well, to answer your letter. Lieut. Beckwith was formerly



a Sergeant, and was promoted 2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant, a few months ago. He is of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. Dragoon. Described as a "miserable" resolution to Capt. Beckwith, as far as I know.

As to the Strategy: Everyone thinks and I think that old Sumner made a great mistake in rushing Sedgwick's Division so recklessly against the very key of the enemy's position. We never should have gone down into that ravine, where the dead were piled closer than in the Orchard at Waterloo. We lost between 2 and 3000 men there out of about 6000, all in 2 hours or so. It was a slaughter pen. I think that our 3<sup>d</sup> line should have been held far back, our first advanced to the edge of the valley and our skirmishers sent down, and our 2<sup>d</sup> line taken to the left to hold that part of the field until a connection could be made with French on the left. Then batteries should have been advanced and used against the enemy in the Coalfield, house, barn, &c. And this been done and we gained the elevated land beyond the house, then Sumner's whole Corps could have advanced and driven everything before them as they did on the open land this side of the ravine. Then the whole of the enemy's left would have been turned and our guns could have been placed on a hill swaying the whole right of the enemy, and Burnside would have had an easy victory, and I do not see how the Rebel Army could have been saved. Sumner was too impetuous and too sure of victory. Moreover, you underestimate our success. With the exception of this ravine or valley we gained possession of the



which fell and it was a most decided advantage to us. It forced the enemy to retreat. Then none of you seem to appreciate what a tremendous battle it was. Fair Oaks, White Oak Swamp, Bull Run, and the others, do not compare with it. It was from daylight till dark, and most obstinately fought, and at very close quarters. Do you see the comparative loss in our Corps, Division, Brigade, and Regiment, greatly exceeds that of the British at Waterloo, or the Alma, or of the French at Magenta and Solferino.

It was the first time I ever appreciated what I have often said of "men moved down in rows like corn", but it was so. When they came in on our left and rear the fire was awful. I was once covered with stones and dirt cast up by a shell striking close to me, and the trees of the wood were crackling as if on fire. Then, when the New York and Pennsylvania troops were rushing by us and through us like sheep, our Regiment showed its discipline, and our commanding did not take one step at double quick, but marched out as should be done without the loss of one man, except those left dead and wounded on the field.

If you want to know more of the battle, you must ask questions, and I will try to answer them. I think that Nelson was right in saying troops were Washington. How did he know the whole rebel force was here? The day after the battle he got a despatch from Halleck, telling him this fact. It would have been wrong to leave Washington





in the Nights' range. That should be protected at any cost.

I am sorry you found so much trouble with the tents. I have also sent you from my trunk the pair of dark blue pants & a black, also 1 pair woollen ribbed drawers. Let straps (for riding) be put on the pants, to unbutton, of course. I wonder the Express will soon come to Harper's River. Webster's Regiment (The 2<sup>d</sup> Mass.) is not with me, but at Sandy Hook 2 miles off. I can send there easily, however. Please send me \$1.25 worth letter stamps. I have none at all now. I hear poor Elbbott is very ill indeed. I am exceedingly sorry for him. Glad you are well. Mary Ann must not be sickly. Make her ride on horseback, and walk &c. Love to all.

Your affectionate brother  
Henry.

P.S. I wish in future "Lieut. Rogers, Head Quarters, Dana's Division".

M. R.



































